



July 2, 2023

Pastor Note:

With Liberty and Justice for All

No one knows more about liberty and justice than God, than Jesus Christ, our Creator. Therefore, He and His written revelation (the Bible) are both the proper and best starting point for any contemplation of both liberty and justice.

God, unlike us, has the power, resources, immortality, and authority to do anything He wants. We, and the writers of the US Constitution, are leery of that kind of absolute and unchecked power in human hands, and rightly so. Only God is able to yield power and freedom with complete fidelity to holiness, goodness, righteousness, justice, and love. Thankfully, God has forever restricted Himself to His impeccable character, thus, for instance, it is impossible for God to lie or tempt anyone to evil (Hebrews 6:18, James 1:13-14). Two things we can learn from this is that handling freedom requires both righteous character and discipline.

God eternally exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They have never violated one another but have lived in perfect harmony, respect, submission, and love toward each other. Love, liberty, and justice become important when there is more than one, where there is community, and relationship. The second most important commandment, **"Love your neighbor as yourself"** (Leviticus 19:18, Romans 13:9), flows from this, as does Paul's exhortation to the Philippians, **"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others"** Philippians 2:3-4 (NASB). Two things we can learn from this is that freedom is more than mere self-expression and self-fulfillment but requires considering and pursuing others' interests and welfare as much as our own.

There is no freedom where God does not exist, nor do we have any freedoms that are not God-given. We are free to choose any religion or outrightly reject any notion of God, **"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"** Joshua 24:15 (NASB). However, our God-given freedom to choose or reject God cannot cancel God. The first sin and foolishness of exercising freedom is to reject the very God who gave us life and liberty.

The self-deceptions that accompany this choice are the notions that, somehow, we can free ourselves from being accountable to God's laws and order, and that we can do better on our own. But there is no such thing as freedom from being accountable to God for all our choices and actions, **"So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God"** Romans 14:12 (NIV); **"And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him"** Hebrews 9:27-28 (NLT2). And, history clearly proves that we are incapable of doing better on our own.

A free society, people, requires laws. Everything is arbitrary in a lawless society, everyone's standards are as good as anyone else's, and human depravity is unleashed. So, who gets to decide what is right and what is wrong, good and evil? Who gets to say what is moral and immoral? Who knows what is infinitely wise and what is eternally foolish? Who has the right to define sin? Who has the liberty, the authority, the wisdom, and the power to both know what is righteous and hold everyone accountable to it? We love to usurp this authority because we think it will give us greater freedom and will allow us to absolve ourselves from and justify our sins, but in an ironic twist, it renders us less free, pushes us deeper into the slavery of our sin, **"They (those teaching their own thing) promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you"** 2 Peter 2:19 (NLT2, parenthesis mine).

My hope and prayer are that you and I will worship and give thanks to God this 4<sup>th</sup> of July for all the freedoms He has granted us, freedoms people around the world yearn for. I am also hoping and praying you and I will take time to reflect and meditate deeply, theologically, and biblically so we will not bow our knees at the altar of Christian nationalism or join the drums of godless activism. Rather, that we will be committed to and radically flesh out:

**"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people"** (Proverbs 14:34 NIV).

**"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love"** (Galatians 5:13 NLT2).

**"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"** (Matthew 6:9-10 NIV).

To God be all glory this 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Love you, Pastor Hans



# Lord Hear Our Prayers

Sermon Notes:

## PRAYER REQUEST

Health: Karen Souza, Mabel Mayes, JoEllen,  
That lives will be affected & changed at Youth Camp,  
that we do actually SHARE.

## SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Phillip, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,  
Farney, John Boykin, Peter, Mariah Ellis, Jimmy,  
Shyrlee Stagner, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

## Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Mike Sharland,  
Noah Martin, Rebekah Wilhelmy, John Michael Chavez,  
Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker, Dylan Werner, Brian Sula,  
Michael Thomasson, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,  
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,  
Christopher Sula

## CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us  
know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862  
and/or an e-mail to: **BATTprayer@yahoo.com**

## **Church Board Members:**

Hans Frei - Pastor . Richard Mayes - Head Deacon  
Russ Young . Dan Hankemeier . Sue Kluding .  
Gabi Cox . Chuch Arndt

# July Announcements

## Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages - 7:00 P.M.
- Food Ministry - 1st Wed. & 3rd Tues. @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 A.M.
- Communion Sunday - July 23rd  
Deacon Board Meeting every 4th Sunday after service

Fellowship Time Snacks  
were provided

By - "Dan's class"

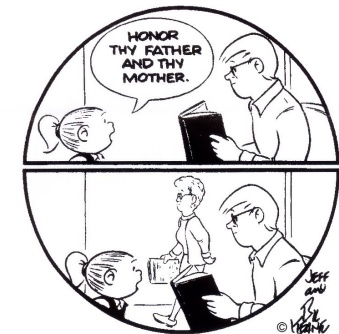
**Thank you**

*Next week Beverley's Class & The Youth are up!!*

- Don't forget to check out the sermon on our
- website: [ldpbaptistchurch.com](http://ldpbaptistchurch.com)
- for you and your whole family.

A Bit of  
Humor  
Corner

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"...and thy grandmother."

from [JoyfulNoiseletter.com](http://JoyfulNoiseletter.com)  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

### Giving

*June 25, 2023*

**Offering:**  
\$3,407.00

**Food:**  
\$60.00

**Books & Material:**  
\$125.00

**Fuge:**  
\$250.00

**Attendance:**  
94

### Weekly Events

#### Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

#### Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

#### Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

**Tuesday:** Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

#### **1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday**

#### **Food Ministry:**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

#### **Wednesday:**

Women's Bible Study - On Hiatus  
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM  
Grief Share - 6:30 PM (On Hiatus)

**Thursday:** Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

**Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church**  
4175 Abeto Street  
La Grange California 95329  
209-852-2029  
ldpbaptistchurch@gmail.com  
www.ldpbaptistchurch.com

# SHARE



*1 Timothy 6:18*



### **July 3rd - July 9th**

DAY 1 - Mark 4  
(Eccl. 3)

DAY 2 - Mark 5  
(Eccl. 4)

DAY 3 - Mark 6  
(Eccl. 5)

DAY 4 - Mark 7  
(Eccl. 6)

DAY 5 - Mark 8  
(Eccl. 7)

DAY 6 - (Eccl. 8)  
DAY 7 - (Eccl. 9)

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.