



On the Same Page

“For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”
(2 Corinthians 4:6 NAS95)

A Developing Direction

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to representative His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

Fallen Race; Fallen Face

Sunday, March 9, 2014

We have been studying the disturbing story of Cain and Abel, the first brothers, recorded in Genesis 4. Cain, the elder, murders Abel, the younger. So much for the good old days. The first-fruits of the Fall were rotten at its core. In some aspects, there may be a (d)evolution of wickedness throughout the generations. But in this story, the apple didn't fall far from the tree.

God's words to Cain, before the murder, were, “Cain, why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?” Cain was stung by the rejection of his offering, and by the acceptance of Abel's. He was mad at God. And since you can't get away with kicking God, he was setting out to kick his brother. But what was going on on the inside was showing on the outside. The attitude of his heart was determining the mood of his face. And over the years, that hasn't changed - for you, or for me.

We can blame it on age - sagging jowls and triple chins. But our disgust with the world and disappointments with ourselves casts our facial expressions in downward directions. Remember when you used to make stupid-looking faces as a kid, and your mother would say, “If you keep making that face, it will stay that way”? She was right. Disgruntled sadness is habit- and face-forming.

But faith in Christ makes an amazing difference. It turns death into life, and it turns frowns up-side-down. The resurrection reverses our past (sins forgiven) and our future (peace and enjoyment with God). But it also changes our present. Political/financial/physical/job/relationship irritants are seen in a new light because of our participation in Christ's grand-reversal resurrection that changes everything. Yes, problems remain, but the faces of the redeemed are looking up.

The 2014 'John' Project: Excerpts from John Owen

John Owen points us toward the beauty of the divine-human character of Christ, which, in glory, we will see, not by faith, but by sight.

.. if, by the love of life and our present enjoyments, we are strangers unto these things*, .. we are not in the way towards their enjoyment. The present satisfaction we receive in them* by faith, is the best evidence we have of an indefeasible interest in them.**

*the glory of heaven, consisting in the full manifestation of divine wisdom, goodness, grace, holiness, - of all the properties of the nature of God in Christ.

**not able to be lost, annulled, or overturned

The Works of John Owen, Vol 1, p. 245 of

“A Declaration of the Glorious Mystery of the Person of Christ”, first published the year after his death, 1684, and reprinted by Banner of Truth in 1965

Deacons' Visitation, this Tuesday, March 11, 6:45.

Thanks to those who labored to install ceramic tile on the two restrooms off the lobby. It's a great improvement.

Awana Awards Night and Fun Fair are Wednesday, March 26

Men's Retreat, April 24-26, at Lake Ann. See Al Lund

Ladies Retreat on Mackinac Island, May 14-15, leaving the 13th.

Our [Lake Ann Camp Camper Scholarship drive](#) has begun. You may use our 'loose change' bucket, or scholarship directly through designated giving.



Weekly Worship, This Sunday at 11 a.m.

Worship last Sunday, February 23: We are in the first, 4-week section of a Spring sermon series called **Character in Conflict**, studying pairs of characters from the Bible, and reflecting on the conflict of character that is taking place in our own hearts. This section studies **Cain and Abel**. Please read Genesis 4 in advance, as we study **Cain's Crisis**.



Last Sunday, from Genesis 4 (and Hebrews 12:24), we heard [“Abel's Testimony,”](#) along with Lord's Table.

Adult Sunday School, led by John Dickey, is studying the Book of Amos from the Old Testament.

Ladies Bible Study is following the book Love and Respect, meeting on Tuesday mornings. See Robin Dickey or Paula Strouss

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Daylight Savings Time, this weekend. Spring Ahead!