

DECEMBER 2025

# LEWIS LAKE NEWS



November 2, 2025 Lewis Lake welcomed Josh Martin as our Associate Pastor in a Pastoral Installation Ceremony, Senior Pastor, Joe Reed officiated.

## Date Your Wife

*By Pastor Joe Reed*

*Page 1*

## The Colson Corner

*By Clark Hauger*

*Page 3*

## Pondering The Mystery During Advent

*By Pastor Bob De Young*

*Page 2*

# Date Your Wife

by Joe Reed

The other day in a service I ordered husbands to date their wives. It wasn't really a suggestion, it was a pastoral command. Let me give you the case for it as best I can.

First, a disclaimer. I'm not perfect at this. My marriage isn't perfect. But just because I'm not perfect doesn't mean I'm a hypocrite. Maybe we don't go out every Tuesday night, but I do take time to be alone with her. Sometimes that's a nice dinner, sometimes it's grocery shopping. You take what you can get, when you can get it.

Okay, fine print out of the way, here's a half-dozen reasons you need to date your wife, in no particular order:

## 1. She needs to feel cared for.

First Peter tells husbands to honor their wives, because they are "weaker vessels." I take it that Peter means women break easier than men. They're more vulnerable. So they have to be honored, meaning, in this case, protected. Women are like fine china teacups, men like Tupperware. One is more vulnerable than the other.

I don't know what it's like to be a woman. I've not lived there. But I know they feel vulnerabilities I don't. I never think to check my car for prowlers in the backseat before I get in it. I don't think anything of white work vans with no windows. I'm not bothered by much. Male privilege, I guess.

A wife wants to know her husband will care for her. That he cherishes her enough to protect her. In short, she needs to know she's loved, and because she's loved, she's safe.

You love your boat, that's why you tenderly tuck it into the safety of storage every fall. You love your car, wash

and wax it by hand, and freak out if the paint gets scratched. Everything in your life that you really love you treat with tenderness and kindness. People know not to mess with it. Your wife needs to know that she's on that list, and that means you need to show her some of that tenderness. So take her out and show her you deeply love her. Show her she's your most valued possession. Yeah, I said it, your possession. Something you take ownership of and would be really ticked off if anyone messed with it. She needs to feel you care for her. This world isn't safe for her; she needs to know you'll be her protector.

## 2. You need to feel appreciated.

The two words men most want to hear is, "Good job!" We're not unlike puppy dogs, always seeking approval. So, Paul tells wives they should 'respect their husbands' (Eph 5:33). Husbands honor their wives by protecting them; wives honor their husbands by admiring them.

Respect is a largely reflexive thing. I couldn't just order you to respect a man who's a thief or a drunk. Guys, you need to be appreciated. And by your wife. But there's something I've noticed over the years, and it's this: Guys want (and sometimes demand) respect, but do next to nothing to earn it.

So here's something: take your wife out. Spend some money on her, spend some time with her, try to show her you care about making her happy. In short, give her a good reason to say, "Thank you, you're wonderful!" You need that.

## 3. You need to keep romantic feelings alive.

There's an old proverb that says, "Marriage is like bathwater. After a while, it's not so hot." I remember

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~Date Your Wife, continued on page 4

# Pondering The Mystery During Advent

by Bob De Young

Advent: This word means the arrival or coming of something important. In a secular context this word can speak of the invention of some new device that changes society in significant ways. So, for instance, the advent of the printing press opened up a whole new era of communication and learning for mankind. We use the word “advent” to speak of some new thing that has arrived and it is very cool!

For the Christian Church, the season of advent covers the 4 Sundays before Christmas and celebrates the arrival of Jesus into our world. This means that we have 4 Sundays to meditate on the amazing truth that God Almighty sent His one and only Son into the world to do what was necessary to save us from our sins. The arrival of Jesus opened up a new era of hope and joy for the world.

But, because this season is embedded in our Church calendar, we also realize that we have done it before. We celebrated Advent last year, and the year before that and the year before that. Truth be told, the Church has been celebrating this holiday for hundreds, and even thousands of years. So really, what is there left to say? Every year we read the same scripture texts, sing the same Christmas songs and light the same kind of candles. We could pretty much run through this with our eyes closed.

So the question that we have before us today is this. How can we keep our celebration of Advent and Christmas fresh and vibrant even though most of us have gone through it over and over and over again.

It is at this point the Apostle Paul comes to our rescue. In Ephesians 3:2-3 Paul says that God has given him the job

of explaining a grand mystery to these believers. This mystery was shown to Paul by revelation from God Himself. Listen to what Paul says next.

“When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

Paul speaks of the “mystery of Christ.” In the Bible this word “mysterion” means a secret that God has now revealed to people. If you read verses 1-6 you will see that Paul is specifically talking about Gentiles being saved. For over a thousand years the Jews believed that only they would be saved and, if a Gentile wanted to be saved, they had to convert and become a Jew. But now, Paul was saying that Gentiles would be saved just by simply trusting in this one Jew named Jesus.

The mystery of Christ is more than enough to keep our brains frying during the Advent season. No matter how often you have heard the salvation story, there is always more to discover concerning this grand mystery! Ask God to help you listen to Paul so that we can understand and be in awe of this amazing Savior and just what it is that He has done for us!

There are a lot of mysteries in life. For example:

Why does the toast always land butter-side down when we drop it?

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~Pondering the Mystery, continued on page 5

# The Colson Corner: The Trans - Issue

by Clark Hauger

We live in a confusing time. Carl Trueman begins his magisterial work: *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* by characterizing how foreign it would have sounded to any past generation for someone to claim to be “a man born in a woman’s body.” Yet, there is something about that statement that seems to make sense to the muddled modern mind. This particular example is only an outworking of a LONG and storied history of defiance as old as the garden. I’m not talking merely about transsexuality or transgenderism. I’m talking about transhumanism.

A little latin prefix we’re very familiar with: trans-. Transcontinental = across the continent. Transmit = to send across a distance. Transatlantic = across the Atlantic. Transparent = light goes through. Now, trans-humanism is to go beyond humanness. This mentality has had sinful iterations all through human history. “You will not surely die. <sup>3</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4-5) Or the tower of Babel: <sup>4</sup>Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves...” (Genesis 11:4) The Golden Calf incident depicts this trend: When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” (Exodus 32:1) The impulse to engineer our way out of God’s design continues in the time of the Judges: “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges

21:25) In Jesus’ day he rebuked the Pharisee: “They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.” (Matthew 23:4)

At every point through the biblical record mankind knows they’re created for something greater. “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart...” (Ecclesiastes 3:11) Still we show boundless anti-creativity when we work against God’s grain. Like J.R.R. Tolkien’s Saruman and his will to domination, we attempt to usurp God’s place. After all,

“...God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...” (Genesis 1:28) But we want to do it our way and not His. We can (and next time will) unpack how the effects of this libido dominandi (lust to power) undergirds every ill of society and every heart.. Abortion? Eugenics? No-fault divorce? Absent fathers? Bad government? Gay marriage? Euthanasia? And so many consequences of such bad ideas. Man’s quest *for* God replaced by man’s quest *to become* God.

There is a true form of transhumanism. We WERE made for something greater in

the beginning. Maybe this transhumanism is a Christian heresy? When we fell into sin we awaited a savior who could redeem us and reconcile us to this purpose. This is by the true “transhumanism” (which is arguably just a fulfillment of what true humans are made for). That God became a man. The apostle John writes “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14) The incarnation of Christ! God became man! This is the answer to every transhuman impulse in us! And he has reconciled us! “All

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~The Colson Corners, continued on page 6

when Michele and I got married I was sure we were going to be the one couple in the history of the world for whom those hopelessly romantic feelings never died. That I would never look at her without my heart skipping a beat and my cheeks burning. But, to my horror, the flame that once put the Olympic torch to shame did sadly begin to fade.

I firmly believe romantic feelings are a gift from God. All good gifts are from God, and certainly looking at a woman and getting so flustered you can't remember your own name is one of those good gifts. And I want to propose to you that, if you are willing to put in the work, you can keep the fire burning. Now, these feelings require regular maintenance. But that's not a problem for you, you freak out if the car has gone 3002 miles between oil changes.

I think the best way to keep the romantic feelings alive is to do things that keep romantic feelings alive. So deep, right? Back then, you spent every spare moment with her, you obsessed about her, you bought her gifts, you couldn't wait to take her on a date.

Do that again. Do nice things. Be kind. Be romantic. Hold her hand. Kiss it once in a while. Ask her to dinner, and when she comes to the car, hold the door open for her and tell her she's pretty. Maybe you won't light the beacons of Gondor, but at least make some sparks and get *something* going. You need that. So does she. God made us to want those feelings. Make them happen.

4. You need to remember your priorities.

Once upon a time, you stood before God and witnesses and vowed to love and cherish her until death do you part. You did not, I'm confident, make a solemn vow to

your boss to love and cherish your job until death do you part.

Why not? Because your job wasn't nearly as important as the angelic creature standing before you. Besides, if you have to get another job, you have to get another job.

Happens all the time. But you don't just go out and get another wife. God says you get one, so take good care of her.

So, you promise to love the one you have. To love her more than your job. To love her more than your hobbies.

Taking your wife out means for that evening, she is the single most important thing going in your life. It means she's a higher priority than overtime, than fixing the car, more important than fishing, video-gaming, or whatever.

***“Taking your wife out means for that evening, she is the single most important thing going in your life. It means she’s a higher priority than overtime, than fixing the car, more important than fishing, video-gaming, or whatever.”***

I really believe whatever we're doing at any given moment is the most important thing in the world to us at that moment. If it wasn't, we'd go do that other thing.

Here's a dose of cold reality guys: the reason you don't take time to be alone with your wife is because you don't think it's that big a priority.

Oh, you'd tell me that your priorities are God, wife, kids, work, play, but you play most Sundays and work most nights when you could take your wife out.

Remember your priorities. Date your wife.

5. Your kids need you to have a good marriage.

The greatest gift a father can give to his kids is a picture of a happy, healthy marriage. I can't emphasize this enough. Your kids will grow up assuming that their marriage should look like yours. For better, or for worse.

If you fight constantly with your wife, your daughters will probably grow up and do the same. If you work constantly and never have time for your wife, your son will do the same.

Dads want their kids to grow up and be happy. I really believe a man who lives with the woman he loves will be the happiest man on earth regardless of his income or comforts. Better to shiver under a blanket with the love of your life than sleep alone on a bed of roses. And that's as true for them as for you.

Sometimes, the best thing you can do for your kids is to drop them off at Gramma's house and tell them you'll be back soon. They need to see you spending time together. They need to know you love each other.

Kids need stability. They should never have to wonder if Mom and Dad are going to make it.

I don't know any shortcut to a good marriage except to put time into it. Don't read this and think you can take your wife out once and life will be perfect. You need to take her out, and then do it again, and again, and again.

Until you're dead. Your kids need you to have a good marriage. Put in the work, take the time, make it happen.

6. Your community needs you to have a good marriage.

The family is the basic unit in a community. A good community can't be built with rotten bricks. Healthy marriages are a boon to a community, and a healing balm to a broken nation. If you want to say taking your wife out to dinner is patriotic, go for it! I won't argue with you.

Guys, if you've got really good reasons you shouldn't date your wife, let me know, I'm all ears. But if all you've got is lame excuses, I'm not listening. Date your wife.



**Joe Reed is the Senior Pastor here at Lewis Lake.**

Why does it always rain right after we washed the car?

Why do we always find a tool right after we bought a new one to replace it?

Yes, life does indeed have its mysteries. But most of them are not really worth our attention.

But, when we ponder the mystery of Jesus and His salvation, especially for us Gentiles, now we have hit on

something that is truly worth our attention. Have you heard it all before? Maybe. But dig a little deeper this year and ask the Lord to reveal Jesus to you. Dig in to the Mystery!

Pastor Bob



**Bob De Young is enjoying being semi-retired and holds the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus.**

this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

So, this Christmas season join with God as His ambassadors in casting a life-line to those in our sin-sick world caught up in seeking this lowercase ‘t’ transhumanism. Let our lives and words glorify Christ as we turn our eyes to Him and direct the gaze of a world looking for a cheap substitute to the true transhuman found in the incarnate Lord Jesus “that they should seek

God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us...” (Acts 17:27)

Merry Christmas  
and Happy  
Ambassador-ing!

Clark Hauger



**Clark Hauger serves as the  
Worship Director here at Lewis  
Lake.**

## Christmas SCHEDULE

**Decorating for Christmas**  
Sunday, November 30th  
*Bring a potluck dish to share after the decorations are up.*

**50 & Better Annual Advent Luncheon and White Elephant gift exchange**  
Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm  
*\$20 per person payable in the office.*

**Sunday School Christmas Program**  
Sunday, December 21 at 10:45am

**Christmas Day Service**  
Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am

**New Years Eve at Lewis Lake**  
Wednesday, December 31st at 7:00pm  
*Bring potluck snacks to share, your favorite games, warm clothes, and a friend or two.*

## Financial Peace University



There is a group starting up in January. Talk to Trent 612-390-1399 or Sarah Terpstra 320-515-0403 if you are interested in joining this group.



## Parents of Youth

**ARK ENCOUNTER REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 10TH!**

**Register TODAY in the app!**

# WOMEN'S

*Ministry*

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Women's Ministry Meeting  
Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
6:15pm  
All Lewis Lake Ladies are  
encouraged to join us.

## Women's Ministry Project Day

Join us for Women's Ministry Project Day, a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women, share creative ideas, and work on your personal projects in a supportive and encouraging environment. Whether you're an experienced crafter or just starting out, all are welcome!

**Date:** Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

This is a repeating event held on the second Saturday of the month

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Lunch will be provided!

**What to Bring:**

Your craft, hobby, or personal project (quilting, sewing, knitting, scrapbooking, card making, painting, or any creative endeavor).

**Don't have a project?** No problem! We'll have some activities to join and opportunities to learn new skills.

Come ready for fun and fellowship!

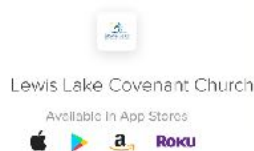
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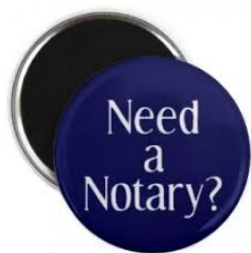
Subscribe to the Lewis Lake Pulse, a weekly email sent out on Monday mornings with the week's announcements, along with a few things Pastor Joe recommends for feeding your soul throughout the week. To subscribe to The Pulse, shoot an email to [office@LewisLake.org](mailto:office@LewisLake.org) with the subject line "Subscribe to Pulse" and we'll get you fixed up! Or you can scan the QR code to the right.



## Get the App!



It's not always easy to keep up with everything that's happening at Lewis Lake. Your life is busy, and so is ours. To that end, we've created the Lewis Lake phone app. Watch sermons, check the church calendar, sign up for events and activities, it's the place to go to see what's happening and plug into the madness. So go wherever you get your apps, and look for Lewis Lake.



## Notary Services Available

Notary Services are available at zero cost to Members and Non-Member friends of Lewis Lake Covenant Church. You can catch Tami on Sunday mornings or make an appointment to stop by the office during the week.