



8TH SEPTEMBER 2019

James Dunne writes...

In Your Thinking Be Mature

The above quote comes from the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 14 and it is a reminder that we need to think wisely about our faith.

Over the past few weeks I have been reading the Gospels and two things have struck me and caused me to reflect on my own understanding of my faith and it's outworking in my life.

One is that Christ lived his life as a revelation of God's love and truth so that what he said, did, and who he mixed with became a living challenge to the prevailing view of the world held by the Jewish religious leaders.

Christ himself summarised this when he said 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' emphasising that the disciples pay attention not just to what he said but how he conducted himself. In a similar way he would state that the kingdom of God had already come, or was here already, for he was the living example of the kingdom, both demonstrating and teaching how things should be.

The second was the Jewish leader's response to Christ. This was to ask questions that sought to control and reduce the ministry of Christ into something that conformed with their corrupted view of religion. Either he conformed to their view or he must be rooted in evil was their perspective.

Christ was able to avoid the traps set for him by the religious leadership. But what about us, have we avoided the traps that have been set before us. Do we even recognise them as traps, and dead ends?

Man has a tendency to create rules to which others should conform. Indeed, conformity is still demanded long after the rules have lost any relevancy they may once have had.

When we look at God's creation, we see diversity rather than conformity. Christ spoke about setting us free and our living a life of fullness. In Romans 12 Paul writes that we should not conform, but rather be transformed.

Questions that I ask myself include the following:

Do I consider myself on a journey to an ever freer, fuller, and transformed life?

In what ways does my understanding of my life or the Gospel cause me to go down a road of conformity rather than transformation.

This brings me back to my opening point on the need to reflect maturely about our faith and make periodic assessments of the path we are on.

Blessings, James

Notices

EMMANUEL CHURCH CAFE

The café is open again after the summer so do come and enjoy some great coffee and sample the delicious cakes on offer.

COFFEE MORNING WITH KIDS

Starting up again on Monday 9th September 9.00am in Meeting Room 2 here at Emmanuel Church. All welcome. See Rachel Jolly for more details .

RIDE & STRIDE SAT 14TH SEPTEMBER (10am—6pm)

Get sponsored for cycling, riding or walking to as many churches as possible—50% of money raised will go to ECB. See flyer for more details.

LADIES PAMPER 'N'CHAT

Meeting up again on Saturday 14th September 10-12noon in meeting room 2 here at Emmanuel church.

WHO LET THE BLOKES OUT!

A chance to meet up with other men to chat and chill. Bring your children and let them play while you enjoy a bacon sandwich, tea or coffee. Saturday 14th September 10-12noon here at Emmanuel Church.

ENCOUNTER EVENING

Starting back up again at Gagle Brook school on Saturday 28th September 7-9pm. Please Search: [Encounter@Gaglebrook primary](#) for more details on Facebook.

GARDEN TALK

Join us to chat about our gardening joys and sorrows over a cup of coffee. Saturday 28th September 10.30—12noon here at Emmanuel Church.

MEN'S CURRY NIGHT AT SHAKIL'S

Coming up on Tuesday 17th September. For more details , contact Colin Arter:

07717875566

ROTAS: If you need to check rotas please log on to Church Builder. If you need help with this or any other information about events, groups or who's who then please contact the church office. Details overleaf.

ECB DIARY

SUN	8th SEPTEMBER	10.30am	Café Church Sabbatical news Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Erika Biscoe
		7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Apologetics Week 1 , Science and Christianity Leader: Tim Cranston Preacher: Paul Ewart
MON	9th SEPTEMBER	9.00am	Coffee Morning with Kids
TUES	10th SEPTEMBER	9.00am	Prayers
		7.00pm	Prayers
WED	11th SEPTEMBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
		10.30am	Oasis Small Group
THURS	12th SEPTEMBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
		7.30pm	Board Games Evening
FRI	13th SEPTEMBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
		9.30am	Cherish Group
		7.00pm	Prayers
		7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SAT	14th SEPTEMBER	10.00am	Ladies Pamper 'n' Chat
		10.00am	Who Let the Blokes Out!
SUN	15th September	10.30am	Informal Worship Stewardship Series 1, Vision Sunday Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday