

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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May 17, 2015

Preacher's Point

By Dan Schillinger



The Fundamental Attribute of God's Nature

Which aspect of God's nature is fundamental, explaining all of his other attributes? Followers of the very influential John Calvin (1509 - 1564) have thought that his sovereign control of all things is his most fundamental attribute. Others have suggested that it is his exclusive demand for worship, i.e., his jealousy. Yet others have thought that his wrath against sin is most fundamental. Still others have suggested other personal divine attributes. But God directly answers this question in his own words in Exodus 34:4-7,

⁴ *Moses cut two stone tablets like the first ones. He got up early in the morning, and taking the two stone tablets in his hand, he climbed Mount Sinai, just as the LORD had commanded him.*

⁵ *The LORD came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed [His] name Yahweh.*

⁶ *Then the LORD passed in front of him and proclaimed: "Yahweh—Yahweh is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth,*

⁷ *maintaining faithful love to a thousand [generations], forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave [the guilty] unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' wrong-doing on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.* (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

From its mention twice in this text it is obvious that the most fundamental attribute of God's nature is his "*faithful love*." "*Steadfast love*" is how the Revised Standard Version, New Revised Standard Version, and English Standard Version insightfully translate the underlying Hebrew term, **késed**.

It would be difficult to overstate how prominent and significant this oft-used Old Testament word really is. The term is a rich and multi-faceted concept, with elements of love, kindness, mercy and covenant faithfulness. It communicates that the **LORD** is always passionately pursuing a personal relationship with every one of us. God chases after us, even when in our sin we are not interested. No single English word or even a phrase can do justice to the full meaning of **késed**. Not only is this the single most important word in Scripture for describing the essence of God's nature, and his attitude towards humanity; it is also descriptive of what should be our reciprocal attitude towards God, and how we also ought to regard one another. The following passages are very notable:

Genesis 24:27; 39:21; Exodus 15:13; 34:5-7;

2 Samuel 7:15; Psalm 136; Lamentations 3:22-24; Hosea 6:6 (quoted by Jesus at Matthew 9:13; 12:7); & Jonah 4:2.

Every other attribute of God--his sovereignty, his wrath, his jealousy, and all other attributes--are outgrowths of steadfast love towards you and me. Truly,

Today's Sermon

a.m. "A Book Rightly Divided"

2 Timothy 2:15

Congregational potluck will immediately follow the morning service. Our high school graduates will be honored, and then our day here will conclude with a brief devotional service. No service will be held at the regular time this evening.

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."
(Lamentations 3:22-24)

Welcome Visitors

We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our service. We think you will find our congregation family to be one that enthusiastically embraces newcomers and warmly welcomes them into our fellowship. We hope you feel right at home as you join us in worship, praise and thanksgiving.



Plan to Attend ... TODAY!!

A congregational potluck in our Fellowship Hall honoring our 2015 Graduating Seniors will be held **today**, Sunday, May 17, following the morning service. Let's show these young people how much we appreciate them and their accomplishments. Our seniors are:

Lauren Beard / Slidell High School
Luis Vargas / Northshore High School

Please stay after our morning service for this special event!!

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Congratulations, College Graduates!



Whitney Evans graduated yesterday with a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration from Tulane University.

Kristen Nicole Myers graduated Thursday with a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from the LSU Sciences Center on Thursday.

"REMEMBER IN PRAYER & ENCOURAGE"

With Visits, Calls, & Cards



The earthquake victims in Nepal, struck now a second time.

Zac Steele - chemotherapy treatments, this time for malignancy in one of his hips.

Claudia Molina - had neck surgery Monday, and is recovering well, and is also still healing from a bone in her mouth being exposed.

Casey family - has returned from helping Scot's mom following her surgery in Charlotte, SC.

Shirley Ervin - healing from a recent bout of pneumonia in her right lung.

Jean Cook - having heart health issues.

Kenneth Hays - (brother of Johnny Hays, an elder at the Picayune church) - lost part of his foot to diabetes, and is now in rehab in Covington.

Bobby Leonard - had a MRI done on Thursday for kidney trouble.

Dave Esco (brother-in-law of Courtney) - had a procedure done on his leg arteries on Friday.

Rosemary Tate (of Picayune, friend of the Fowlers.) - has stomach colitis and a degraded immune system.

Clara Leonard - suffering from diverticulitis and a bruised arm.

Teresa Moragne - suffering from low blood pressure, and dizzy spells and a sinus infection.

Kate McDonald - thanksgiving that she has recovered from her recent sinus infection.

Margaret Schillinger - although improving, she is still suffering from sinus congestion and associated symptoms. She is seeing her doctor again tomorrow.

Tammy Kinsey (Debbie's daughter) - diagnosed with lupus, and an allergy to the sun.

Bubby and Lacie Lawrence (Gerald & Claud-ia's grandchildren) - pray for improvement in managing their diabetes.

Bob Hood (husband of Jesse Fowler's niece; a young man living in Granada, MS) - has cancerous knots in his skin.

Judy Fowler (wife of Jesse Fowler's brother) - undergoing medical tests.

Candie Smith (wife of a coworkers of Dorsie Jones) - diagnosed with final-stage cancer.

Paul Moragne, Jr. - awaiting diagnosis from a cluster of symptoms: partial loss of motor control, migraine headaches, and fluid behind his ear.

Kaitlyn McDonald (Kate's daughter) - Congratulations! She passed her recent teaching praxis and already has a job.

Anna Jones (Mr. Dale's daughter) - a previously scheduled surgery has been canceled, and she is looking now for a different option.

Phyllis Tansil - for lasting relief from her chronic back pain.

Elena Castenada (niece of Paul & Teresa Moragne) - age one, has brain damage from an unknown cause.

George Roig - foot injured when a piece of steel gel upon it.

James Roig (son of George & Fairie Roig) - dealing with the decline and imminent passing of grandmother, Nemie Anna Dunn.

The Acker family - bereaved at the recent death of **Alfansazia Acker**.

David McConnell (nephew Fairie Roig) - has back surgery scheduled in Oklahoma on May 18.

Irvin Briant, Sr. (Gregory Briant's dad) struggling to regain better health in a special-needs hospital in Covington.

Irvin Briant, Jr. (Gregory Briant's brother) - has become weaker and less coherent.

Sharon Honore (Anita Briant's sister) - being treated for cancer at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston.

Alexis Leonard - suffering a hurt knee.

Colton Roig - for his faith-walk with the Lord.

Janet Despenza - for her continued recovery following recent cervical vertebrae surgery.

Cheryl Elkin (member of the church in Pigeon Forge, TN and a friend of Joyce Carter's) - tests have revealed a growing spot and two new spots in her lung, despite recent chemotherapy.

Patricia Fowler (sister of Reneitha Dean) - diagnosed with stage-four lung cancer. She is a member at the West Looxahoma church of Christ in Senatobia, MS.

Irvin T. Johnson (brother of Freida Hollis) - of Tuscaloosa, AL, in ill health, is coming to Slidell soon to live with Frieda. Pray for Frieda's endurance as she cares for him.

Harold Evans (Sharon's husband) - recovering at home after having a stent surgically implanted Thursday in his pancreas due to two additional cysts being discovered there.

Devon Nelson (grandson of George & Fairie Roig) - preparing to enlist in the U.S. Army soon.

Gerald Molina - experiencing neck pain, and several lower-back issues.

Becky Gilbert - secretary at the Tammany Oaks congregation, undergoing chemotherapy.

Sid Westbrook - Meghan's uncle, in Snyder, Texas. He has a minor aneurism in a brain blood vessel; separately, his intermittent fainting spells are believed to be symptomatic of cardio neurogenic syncope.

Steve Lapinto and family (co-worker of Barbara Myers) - newborn son Anthony hospitalized in Children's Hospital with serious health difficulties.

Pearlington church of Christ - struggling to be able to support a preacher.

Shane & Meghan Hicks - have gone to the Smokey Mountains in east Tennessee on vacation until next Friday.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for the Spanish Bible study.

Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.

Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.

Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!

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Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson
Hector Urbina

Our Services

Sunday Morning Bible Class **9:30 a.m.**

Sunday Morning Worship **10:30 a.m.**

Sunday Evening Worship **5:00 p.m.**

Wednesday Evening Bible Class **7:00 p.m.**

Ladies Bible Class **Tuesday 10:30 am**