

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 29 – October 12th

Escaping the Equality Oppression



that: 1. Life isn't always fair; 2. Age has shown my perception of fairness, especially in my youth, to be way off. Maturity in Christ allows Christians a better perspective to the apparent injustices of our world.

So I find it somewhat disturbing to hear the same idea in different words coming from our politicians. They don't say 'that's not fair!' They will use other language such as, 'That's un-Australian' or 'We need to build a better society', or the most deceptive phrase of all, 'We need equality'. These phrases play on our normal emotional and right desire for a just society without ever defining what the speaker means by justice. And worse still, speakers rarely explain how they expect to right the apparent injustice. This has turned many of the calls for equality in our atheistic secular society into oppression.

Equality is a Christian concept founded upon the Biblical

Church Returns

8am Sunday
18th October

Call Adam
on 0457 775 538

29 Spots Remain

That's Not Fair!' I said this growing up. Whenever I perceived an injustice, those words were quick from my lips. Having become a parent myself, those very words which so easily flowed from my tongue in youth have become a curse. How many domestic battles occurring within our house begin with those accursed words, 'That's Not Fair!' Growing up has made me realise

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Dear Friends

by **Kathy Hansen**

C o v i d
h a s n ' t
c h a n g e d
t h i s , j u s t
m a d e
i t m o r e
o b v i o u s .

I take heart that God is in control; that he looks after us, his children. He reminds us he cares every day. I see rosellas in the grevillea and am reminded that God cares for us. I help someone I work with. A friend cheers me. My mother and I laugh together. The more we reach out to God, the more we notice when he reaches out to us.

It's easy to lose the habit of turning to the Lord for strength and comfort, when we are apart from each other, without the usual weekly top-up of fellowship with each other, and hearing from God's word together.

Stay steeped in God's word, both for yourself, and so we can encourage each other. We need to reach out to each other; and to God. It can be hard to do this on our own. This is why God urges us to keep meeting together.

When I feel dismal, I find it hard to drag my focus away from myself. Others feel sad, they need lifting too. I feel like I need to be strong to care for others, but I don't. God knows we are weak and loves us because of this; he will give us what we need, to love our brothers and sisters. When we are struggling; and reach out to help someone, it helps both of us. It takes our focus away from our own problems, it offers understanding and love; and opens the door for Jesus to give us his strength, for both of us to endure together through him.

I am excited that we will soon be meeting together again; however, not everyone will be able to, for health, logistics, or other reasons. I urge us all to make sure no-one is left out of our Barneys' family, that all of us are in the fold together, whether meeting face-to-face or not.

As a church, how about we challenge ourselves to encourage each other? Here are three ways we can actively love each other.

Call one of our church family that you haven't had any contact with since Covid began. Ask how they're going. Find out how you can pray for them.

Send someone a bible verse you are finding helpful right now, and

why. If you find it helpful, they will too. Maybe it struck your eye when reading the bible recently, or it's an old favourite. It could be stuck to your fridge or underlined in your bible. It's always kind to turn our Christian brothers and sisters to the word of God. His word never returns to him empty.

Send a message of support to Adam, Dave or Joe. They have been guiding us exhaustively with love and wisdom all year. Like us, they sometimes feel low or overwhelmed. They are always ready to support us when we need it, no matter how they're feeling. Let them know we love them.

To each and every one of you: I love you. Whether I've chatted with you at numerous Sunday services, or I've never spoken to you; you're all part of my Christian family. I couldn't have endured the past six months without my Barneys' family, and the sense of belonging and acceptance that brings. The love of God flows through you all.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

Your sister in Christ,

Kathy

We've had six months of Covid. We're all finding it difficult. Work, school, health, finances, isolation have all taken their toll. If you think others are finding it easy, they're not. Everyone's challenges are different.

I can only look ahead as far as Covid. Singing in church, catching a train and hugging people feel like part of my nostalgic past. The only future I can look to with certainty is eternity with God in heaven. In between here and there it's hazy.

Our earthly future has always been as uncertain as it is now.

principle that every human being has been created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26.) This great truth accords every single human being ever conceived, both born and unborn, equal value in the eyes of God. God calls every single human being to recognise the equal value of each individual. Atheistic secularism has no intellectual foundation to support this truth, yet many will still appeal to the fundamental equality of all humanity as the source of their ethics. The absence of a divine source for value has an atheistic society searching for a source of equal value, but it

has failed and will continue to do so. In its scramble for an intellectual justification for human equality, it turns true human equality found in being God's image bearers into having exactly the same. This is oppressive and evil because we are not the same. Though equal, God has made us all different and placed us in different circumstances to achieve His purposes.

Christians have the difficult problem within our atheistic culture that though we might be using the same words, we mean completely different things by them. Our culture uses the language handed down to them from its Christian heritage, but it has completely

redefined that language to push through an oppressive agenda. Christians often do not listen carefully enough to politicians to understand how the language being used deliberately redefines biblical words to push through unbiblical ideas. Our politicians now deliberately push a perverse idea of equality in order to obtain an unbiblical and unrealistic utopia. They do so using language many Christians recognise, but fail to understand has been redefined. In so doing, Christians have become the turkey voting for Christmas, and if not careful we will get the same result.

In Christ, Adam.

Find-A-Word

Absence	Endurance	Grevillea	Principle
Biblical	Favourite	Individual	Recognition
Christmas	Focus	Language	Someone
Culture	Friend	Logistics	Spirit
Encourage	God	Politician	Verse

T E N C O U R A G E S R W C X
 Y F L O G I S T I C S U P F B
 D O G N S A M T S I R H C F P
 F A V O U R I T E S R E V O L
 N P F E N O E M O S K N W N F
 O G R E V I L L E A F V Z D O
 I L I I Z N A I C I T I L O P
 T A E Q N F T R D S P I R I T
 I C N V E C N E S B A K H Y S
 N I D I N D I V I D U A L N W
 G L I V B H N P A Y I P P B T
 O B O M E R U T L U C Q I A Z
 C I L E M D O S P E J Z S C O
 E B X Q V E G A U G N A L D B
 R W E C N A R U D N E A Q H Z

PRAYER POINTS



Please send through points for yourself. I will also pick up points from around Barneys to place here if others feel comfortable sharing.

- Give thanks for the ability to return to Church on the 18th of October. Pray that we will continue to encourage each other in the Lord as we begin services over the coming weeks.