

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2026.09.06

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Isaac Helterbrand

Title: Households in Pattern

Recording:



Speaker-PM: Sam Bunyard

Title: Promoting Patriarchy

Recording:



Households in Pattern

- The Exile Instruction — Jer. 29:4-7
- The Unit of Identity — Num. 1:1-4; Lev. 22:11-13
- The Cultural Pressure is to Fragment — Acts 16:30-34; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Tim. 3:4-5
- Members of God's House — Heb. 3:5-6; 2 Tim. 2:20-21
- The Household Economy — 2 Cor. 9:10-15 (cf. Prov. 18:22; Eph. 6:1-2)
- Breadth, Length, Height, and Depth
 - Eph. 3:14-19; Ezk. 40-42; Rev. 11:2; 21:2-4, 9-11



Promoting Patriarchy

*"Be watchful,
stand firm in the faith,
act like men, be strong."
1 Cor. 16:13*



Your Camp Must Be Holy, 9/7/2026 by Zeke Flores

"Since Yahweh your God walks in the midst of your camp ... your camp must be holy" (Deuteronomy 23:13).

Israel's camp wasn't just a living space; God was there too. That meant their environment needed to reflect order, respect, and intentionality. Holiness wasn't abstract; it affected daily life.

Moses is teaching Israel that God's presence should shape how they structure their environment. Not in a ceremonial way, but in a practical way. Cleanliness, order, and integrity mattered because God was among them.

In your life, this principle still holds. If God is present with you, your environment should reflect that reality. It doesn't mean perfection; it means being purposeful. How you speak, how you work, how you treat people, and how you manage your space should align with God's character.

Deuteronomy 23:14 encourages you to consider whether your surroundings deliberately support or undermine your walk with God.

Idolatry and Corinth 9/7/2026 by Hugh DeLong

The city of Corinth was a beehive of religious ideas and practices. This included the traditional Greek gods, the Roman gods and civic religion, the worship of the Emperor and imperial family, and the many differing religious practices brought by travelers and immigrants. As a result, there were many temples, shrines, altars, images, sacrifices, and various religious festivals.

Out of this, Paul would write, "... for us, there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him..." (I Corinthians 8:6). The beginning of the church there began with Paul preaching in the synagogue. Then, being rejected, he turned to preaching to the Gentiles of the city. Thus, "many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized" (Acts 18:8).

We then have this small group of disciples left in the midst of a tremendously idolatrous city. This was a huge obstacle to their faith and morals! They had been part of that scene, but had been washed, sanctified, and justified (I Corinthians 6:11). With that conversion came the teaching of transformation. They no longer could participate in such a lifestyle of immorality and idolatry. Here in chapter 10, Paul states clearly, "Do not be idolaters..." and "flee from idolatry" (I Corinthians 6:7, 14).

Being a disciple is not just about being forgiven, although it most surely includes that. It involves the demand to be transformed, to have one's very character changed. We see this in all of the moral admonitions (some call it the 'moral code') included in almost every New Testament letter! It will always be said, "that such were some of you," but it should never be said 'such are some of you.' Which phrase speaks of your lifestyle?