

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2026.10.04

Website: oakgrovecofc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/oakgrovecofc

Sermon recordings

Scan the QR code below with your phone's cam, or visit oakgrovecofc.org/sermons.

Speaker-AM: Steve Helterbrand

Title: Measure of a Man

Recording:



Speaker-PM: Patrick Hite

Title: Half-Hearted, Whole-Hearted

Recording:



BUT THE LORD SAID TO SAMUEL, "DO NOT
CONSIDER HIS APPEARANCE OR HEIGHT,
FOR I HAVE REJECTED HIM; THE LORD DOES
NOT SEE AS MAN DOES. FOR MAN SEES THE
OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT THE LORD
SEES THE HEART."
- 1 SAMUEL 16:7

"I will praise you, Lord,
with all my heart; I will
tell of all the marvelous
things you have done."
-Psalm 9:1



Articles

Betrothed to Christ, 10/1/2026 by Hugh DeLong

Paul writes to the Corinthians that he 'betrothed them to Christ'. This is not a custom we are familiar with today. In the first century, this was considered a 'legal' binding agreement, but not marriage. The bride 'belonged' to the groom, but the wedding was still ahead. In Matthew, we see Mary betrothed to Joseph, but when he first thought she had been unfaithful, he planned to 'divorce her quietly' (Matthew 1:18-19).

Disciples are in a similar situation today even though we are unaccustomed to this social practice. It is more than an engagement but is still less than the wedding or marriage. It appears the time between making such an agreement and the wedding was about a year (though it could vary in each relationship). During this time, the bride would continue to live in her father's house and use this time to prepare for married life.

We are waiting for the Lord. While we wait for the Lord, we are to be transforming our character, becoming more and more like Him. Hence, Paul could write:

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds" (Titus 2:11-14).

Reread this passage in Titus! We are to be transforming our lives by denying (ungodliness, worldly desires) and living (sensibly, righteously, and godly). We are waiting in hope. We are being purified in our discipleship to Jesus. Does this describe your relationship with Jesus?

From Victory to Defeat 10/1/2026 by Zeke Flores

"But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully ... therefore the anger of Yahweh burned against the sons of Israel" (Joshua 7:1).

Joshua 7 shifts sharply from victory to defeat. Achan's hidden sin becomes a national problem. Israel loses at Ai not because of military weakness but because Yahweh withdraws His support. The issue isn't the enemy's size. It's the people's integrity.

This chapter highlights a key principle: private disobedience can have public consequences. Achan's actions weren't isolated. They affected the entire community. Israel's identity as Yahweh's people meant their obedience was interconnected.

For us, this pushes against the idea that sin is purely personal. Our choices shape environments—families, workplaces, churches. Integrity matters because it influences more than just our own lives.

Joshua 7 also shows God's commitment to holiness. He doesn't overlook what undermines His people; He addresses it directly so restoration can happen. The defeat at Ai wasn't punishment for punishment's sake; it was correction.

Practically, this chapter calls for honest evaluation. Hidden compromises eventually surface. God deals with them not to shame us but to restore relationship, purpose, and strength.