Sermon Notes: Religion Vs. Relationship

Introduction (Matthew 7:13-14)

Point One: What is Religion? (Matt 15:8-9; 23:7; Colossians 2:20-23; Isaiah 1:13-17)

Point Two: What is Relationship? (John 15:5, 15; Matthew 14:22-23)

Point Three: Religion Follow Rules / Relationship Follows the Voice (Jn 10:27)

Point Four: Shifting from Religion to Relationship (Prov 3:5-6; Ps. 27:4; Jn 14:15; Heb 12:2; Rev 3:20)

The Messenger

Weekly Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ
Loving God / Loving People

The Lord's Day, November 2, 2025

Order of Worship

Greeting: Rex Deford

Scripture Reading: Heath Reeves (Colossians 2:20-23)

Worship Leader: George Hewitt

Communion: Jacob Day

Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(Religion Vs. Relationship)

Announcements / Prayer: Stan Davis

During Sermon
Nursery: Cindie Cottingham (Sub: Debbie Smith)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade Bible Hour: Rachel Hewitt

Schedule of Services

Bible Studies: Sunday 9:30am & 5:00pm / Wednesday 7pm
Worship: Sunday 10:30am

Connect with Us

Church Office	(317) 535-1627
Church Text:	(317) 953-5095
Website:	www.whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Email:	info@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Prayer:	PrayerRequest@whitelandchurchofchrist.com
Social Media:	www.Facebook.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC_Youth
	www.X.com/@Whiteland_COC
Online Worship:	www.YouTube.com/@WhitelandCOC

Mail In Contributions

Whiteland Church of Christ / PO Box 85 / Whiteland, IN 46184

Leadership

Elders
Stan Davis (317) 507-1936 / Ed Tichenor (317) 412-2416
Minister
Ronnie Hewitt (317) 966-2029

Welcome

Thank you for being with us today. May you find your time here to be a source of renewal, hope, and belonging.

Recent Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for Helen Shoopman and her family as they continue to mourn the passing of our brother, Lonnie Shoopman. Your love, support, and contributions of food during this time have been greatly appreciated.
Our sister, Sharon Lasiter is now on hospice care. She is welcoming visits, but please call first to arrange them. Her number is 317.374.5506.
Ashton Hewitt continues with rehab on his knee and will be having an MRI.
Cindy Davis requests prayers for her brother Brad and his wife Delissia Workman, as Delissia's older sister, Kathy Hooper, recently passed away. Additionally, Brad & Delissia's neighbor also suddenly passed away due to a heart attack.
Pat Martin, Amy Wiwczaroski's father, has undergone tests indicating some forms of Parkinson's disease. Further tests will be conducted, as these conditions are believed to be contributing to his Alzheimer's.
Eddie Culin, a friend of the Wiwczaroski family, has completed treatment for rectal cancer and will undergo an MRI on November 11th to evaluate his current condition.
Christian Statom seeks prayers for his grandmother, Cathy, and their family, as she has been released from the hospital with little more that can be done for her.
Dawn Elliott requests prayers for her friend, John West, who is hospitalized with cancer and pneumonia.
Crystal Miller is seeking prayers for her cousin, Monica, as she is experiencing liver failure.
Tiffany Waskom, Crystal Miller's coworker, has more cancer.
Jacob Wert, Ronnie & Angie's son, was recently laid off and is seeking new employment.

Long Term Concerns

Susie Crecelous (GayLee's friend), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend), **Frank Denzio** (John's brother), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister), **Robert Ewing** (GayLee's nephew), **Gloria** (Hagan's friend), **Moe Handy** (shut-in), **Rex Hembree** (Della's brother), **Barbara Hurst** (health), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Neil Kent** (David's brother), **Pam Lasiter** (Lougene's daughter), **Clayton Marrott** (intestinal issues), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew), **Tim Scott** (Cindy Strope's brother), **Megan Setser** (Wanda's neighbor), **Benny & Gayle Stephens**, **Vonnie Stonebraker** (Sowder's neighbor), **Blanche Taylor** (shut-in), **Delbert Vibbert** (Lougene's nephew), **Mary Walton** (shut-in), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker), **Wanda Weaver** (kidneys & lupus), **Heather Wiwczaroski** (Eric's sister-in-law), **Jimmy Wooten** (Lougene's son), **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Lougene's son & daughter-in-law).

Administration Record

2025 Budget: $178,787.94 Weekly Budget: $3,438.23
Last Week's Offering: $2,818.00
Attendance Last Week 54

Upcoming Events

Celebrations This Week

Birthday
6th Eric Wiwczaroski
7th Renie Nalley

Morning Glories' Brunch

Our ladies will be meeting on Saturday, November 8th at 10am in the fellowship hall. For more information, please see Inez Dailey or Della Turnbill.

Love Feast Fellowship

Our next meal fellowship together will be next Sunday, November 9th, following our morning worship service. You are asked to bring your favorite dish and dessert to share. This is an excellent opportunity to invite someone to join you.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

All our men (young and old alike) are invited to join us for breakfast, prayer, devotional and fellowship on Saturday, November 22nd at 9am. For more information, please see Lonnie Hewitt or Clinton Nalley.

Thanksgiving Baskets

It is that time of year where we as a family work together to bless families in need from our community by providing them with a Thanksgiving basket. These baskets include everything needed for a meal as well as several shelf-stable meal options to add to their pantries. We plan to provide four baskets this year and need your help. We are looking for names of families in need. For non-perishable groceries and money for perishable items, there are slips of paper on the table in the foyer listing what is needed. On Sunday, November 23rd, following worship service, we will need help assembling the baskets and meeting the families when they pick them up. If you have any questions, please see Eric Wiwczaroski or George Hewitt.

Cleaning Crew
November 3-8 (Team 2)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, November 2	Luke 23-24
Monday, November 3	John 1-3
Tuesday, November 4	John 4-5
Wednesday, November 5	John 6-7
Thursday, November 6	John 8-9
Friday, November 7	John 10-11
Saturday, November 8	John 12-13

Faith Applied: Where Scripture Meets Everyday Life

"A Peaceful Thought-Life"

"For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God."
(Romans 8:5-8, NASB)

I would like to begin with a simple truth: Your mind is the gateway to your soul. What enters it, shapes it. What dominates it, directs it. The above passage in vs. 6 draws a sharp contrast – not between good and bad behavior, but between two mindsets. One leads to death, the other leads to life and peace.

The KJV uses the term "carnally minded". So, what does it mean to be carnally minded? And how do we recognize when our thoughts are drifting in that direction?

To be carnally minded is to think in ways that are disconnected from God, whether that is being self-centered, fear-driven, or flesh-focused. It's not always loud or obvious. Sometimes it's subtle: Maybe a lingering grudge, a fantasy of control, or a spiral of worry. These thoughts feel normal, even justified at times. But they slowly choke out peace from our lives. James 3:15 reminds us that this kind of wisdom is "earthly, unspiritual, and demonic." It may feel wise, but it's very deadly.

If the carnal mind leads to death, what does the spiritual mind offer in contrast? To be spiritually minded is to think with God's perspective – to let the Holy Spirit shape our thoughts. It's not just about thinking "positive," it's about thinking truthfully, eternally, and peacefully.

Some examples of this may be meditating on God's promises, releasing control through prayer, or choosing gratitude over grumbling. Isaiah reminds us in Isaiah 26:3, "*You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.*" (ESV) Peace isn't found in the absence of problems, it's found in the presence of God.

But how do we cultivate this kind of thought-life in a world that constantly pulls us toward the carnal?

This is where transformation begins. Romans 12:2 urges us to "*be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" That's not a one-time event; it's a daily discipline.

Here are five practical steps we can take:

1. Renew Your Mind Daily – Start with Scripture, not social media.
2. Guard Your Inputs – What you consume shapes what you contemplate.
3. Take Captive Every Thought – Don't let rogue thoughts roam free (2Cor 10:5).
4. Pray and Meditate – Allow God's presence to recalibrate your thinking.
5. Speak Life – Your words reinforce your thoughts.

Picture your mind as a garden. Carnal thoughts are the weeds. Spiritual thoughts are the seeds. What are you choosing to water? Choose peace, choose life, choose the mind of Christ.