

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470
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thefbcs.com

Office Hours:
M-Th 9am-3pm
Closed Monday

Sunday School-9:45am
Worship-11am



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Shallotte, NC

Or Current Resident

the Vision

Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Shallotte | February 2026

Me and You



Church Events

- Feb 9th 6:30-8:30p - Ladies' Ministry Meeting; Dinner Provided
- Feb 14th @ 8a - Cars & Coffee
- Feb 16th 6:30-8:30p - Men's Ministry Meeting; Speaker Greg Norris
- Feb 18th Creation Trip 2nd \$75 Payment Due
- Feb 19th @ 10:30a - Bags of Hope Packing
- Feb 21st @ 10:30a - Bags of Hope Distribution



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



DAVID + DEBBIE
FLOYD
JOINED JAN 25

DOLLY KING
JOINED JAN 25

GRANT + LINDSAY
HARRIS
JOINED JAN 4

Happy Valentine's Day

JAY LENO, LOVE, AND COMMITMENT IN MARRIAGE

“Get a girlfriend.”

That was the advice a friend gave to Jay Leno. The problem? Leno’s married.

Jay Leno is best known as the former host of the “Tonight Show.” He has been caring for his wife of 45 years whose dementia is slowly stealing her memory and her quality of life.

“You take a vow when you get married,” he said. But when he tells people he is keeping his vows, they “are stunned ... they’re so shocked that you would live up to it,” Leno said during a January appearance on the “Life Above the Noise with Maria Shriver” podcast.

Shriver reacted, “In sickness and in health. ... Then, when there is a sickness and you’re there, you’re saying people are like, ‘Whoa.’”

Leno agreed. He said it was “the most Hollywood thing” that a guy suggested, “so you’re going to get a girlfriend now?” He chuckled and told Shriver he responded, “No, I have a girlfriend. I’m married. I’ve been married 45 years.”

The growing disrespect for marriage

Leno is right. Respect for marriage is not an accident or a fluke. It is a decision, and that decision begins with mutual respect for the vows made at the altar.

Furthermore, the suggestion that Leno should “get a girlfriend” because his wife is not able to satisfy his needs is both abhorrent and scary. Regardless of your marital status, this is an alarming indictment of the low regard our culture now holds for the critical and valued institution of marriage.

Advocating for marriage is not just about marriage. To support the institution of marriage is to support humanity. Individual marriages do not have to be perfect for us to recognize the value of the institution. All people, regardless of marital status, are called upon to “honor” the institution of marriage (Heb. 13:4).

Why? Because God created marriage in the Garden of Eden, making it an integral part of the created order. Christians especially should advocate for the institution. Without it, humanity itself is at risk.

And that risk is growing. Just a few weeks before Leno’s interview aired, the Pew Research Center published findings that showed about 67% of Americans aged 18–29 and 53% aged 30–49 say society is fine without prioritizing marriage and children.

Of course, nothing could be farther from the truth. Not prioritizing healthy marriages and families is detrimental to all of society. So how did we get here?

Why the declining respect for marriage?

It didn’t happen overnight. Our culture has been chipping away at the institution of marriage and family for decades. But recent trends in social attitudes have accelerated the demise of respect for marriage. Here are a few examples.

- **The rise of the Nones.**

The “Nones” refers to Americans who claim no religious affiliation. Since 2019, this demographic has risen to around 28% and stayed there. The same age group that no longer prioritizes marriage, the 18-29 year olds account for most of the Nones in America.

What’s the connection? A biblical worldview anchors a healthy view of marriage and family. The Bible teaches that marriage was forged by God at creation and for Christians that marriage reflects the relationship between Christ and the church. Without that worldview, marriage is reduced to only a legal institution and not central to a healthy created order.

- **The redefining of marriage and family.**

In 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges legalized same sex “marriage” across the United States. Suddenly, for the first time in any civilization, the institution of marriage was defined as something other than the union of a man and a woman.

This had two effects that further eroded respect for the institution of marriage in America. First, Obergefell v. Hodges fortified the view that marriage is a legal institution without moral or religious foundation.

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DEACON OF THE WEEK

2/1-2/7
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2/15-2/21
ROB MICHEL
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Me and You



...CONTINUED JAY LENO, LOVE, AND COMMITMENT IN MARRIAGE



Essentially, the ruling claimed that God didn’t invent marriage. The government did. So, the government can define it. It’s hard to imagine anything more arrogant.

Second, Obergefell v. Hodges corrupted the institution of marriage by insulting the created order. The Bible condemns homosexual behavior primarily because it is a sin against the created order (Rom. 1:20-32). To characterize a same sex union as a marriage further insults God’s design for humanity.

- **The redefining of love and commitment.**

A third trend that erodes respect for the institution of marriage in America is the way “love” has been reduced to personal pleasure and approval for one’s preferences.

Biblical love is grounded in sacrificial commitment, not personal feelings. Sure, you will have romantic feelings for the one you marry. That’s why we celebrate Valentine’s Day. But the vows you recite at the altar intentionally reinforce your commitment and devotion, not your feelings. The institution of marriage reminds us that love is an objective reality and not a subjective preference. Feelings pass, change, and fluctuate. But commitment keeps marriage strong for a lifetime.

That’s Leno’s point. He didn’t commit to his wife for as long as she satisfies his desires, but he committed to be devoted to her as long as they both live.

What should we do?

So, can we recover respect for the institution of marriage? Yes, and it starts with us.

Christians especially should advocate for the institution of marriage as God’s design. No matter your marital status, treat the institution with the utmost respect for the family and God’s living image of the relationship between Jesus and the Church (Eph. 5:22-33).

If you have been through a hurtful experience in a marriage, don’t let that taint your attitude toward the institution itself. People are sinners and often sin destroys a marriage. But God created the institution of marriage, and that remains firmly good and holy to Him.

Second, if you are married, cultivate your personal relationship with the Lord first and your marriage second. Make it your priority to live out God’s design rather than require fulfillment from your spouse.

And third, along with that, love the way God loves. I have no idea if Leno professes to be a Christian or if he even understands a biblical view of love, but when he equates love with devotion and commitment, he gets it right.

Love often starts with feelings, and that is a good thing. But real love is built on sacrifice and commitment. Lasting marriages are grounded in devotion, not in preferences or the pursuit of personal satisfaction.

In all of our relationships, love is a decision that arises from our character. The more our character is shaped by our relationship with Christ, the more we will love like Jesus loves us (1 Cor. 13:1-13).

In His grace,
Pastor Bob

Happy Valentine's Day

