



November 2012

**From the Desk of
Rev. Chuck**

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Dear Friends,

It won't be long and many of us will be gathered around a table for Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends. So I'd like to take this time to give thanks for all the blessings I have received over the past 18 plus years I have been here at Unity of Bakersfield. During that time my life has been blessed by everyone who has joined us for services, classes, workshops, and special activities.

During one of the classes someone asked why Unity did not do guilt like the other churches do. They went on to express their thoughts on the matter by explaining that in her family guilt keeps them going to church for fear that God will punish them if they didn't go.

Unity will never do guilt because our image of God is one of love and acceptance. And when you have a God that loves you don't have a God that punishes. This is the God of Jesus, the God that is Spirit and everywhere present. If there is any guilt in this relationship it is not of God, it is of our own doing.

Think about this: If Jesus was God incarnate in human form, or if he was God's authority here on earth, what does it say about God's ability to love instead of punish when Jesus asked the woman who was to be stoned to death as punishment for her sin of adultery, "Who is here to condemn you?" God does not condemn even in the appearance of sin.

When she answered, "No one." Jesus then responded either as God incarnate, or God's voice of authority, "Neither do I, go and sin no more." No punishment involved! Only love, compassion, understanding and instruction were given to this woman. The instruction in the form of taking responsibility for her life and actions. This is what God wants, not punishment, not eternal damnation, not blind obedience, but only that we take responsibility to love God, love self, and then our neighbor as our self, and to let our light shine.

What does responsibility look like in your life? It has been said that responsibility comes in many forms. Responsibility can be defined as assuming accountability for a task, decision or

activity. Responsibility is a characteristic someone has that demonstrates efficiency when taking care of certain things. If you are responsible you will do things you know need to be done. Responsibility is a valuable trait in the business world and society because it means you are going to do what you are needed to. No guilt, no shame, just a commitment to be there for the highest and best for all concerned.

When I arrived here in October of 1993 my assignment was to teach the spiritual principles as taught by Unity and Jesus. I made a commitment to be here 24/7 for anyone having spiritual needs and to share my gifts of time, talents, and treasures to the best of my ability. I have been blessed beyond measure because of this.

As I think about what I am thankful for I am overcome with a sense of gratitude. I am grateful for my family who have allowed me to test the waters of responsibility at a very early age, for my life experiences that constantly give the opportunity to learn, grow, and gain greater wisdom and empathy. For my wife, children, grandchildren, and extended family who help keep me grounded. I am grateful for all the members and friends who have made Unity their spiritual home and have supported this ministry and me for the past 18 plus years.

I have done my best to be responsible to the needs of this ministry. Now Unity of Bakersfield and I need your help. If I am to continue my responsibility to help Unity be a spiritual light to the Bakersfield community I need all our members and friends to pray and think about the role each one plays in the responsibility of sharing their time, talents, and treasures to keep this ministry thriving.

People are searching and they need a place to find the spiritual answers that will help them face life's challenges, so that they may build a spiritual relationship with the Lord of their Being and create a life with a total sense of peace and well-being.

Remember what it was like and how Unity helped change your life? I do, for July 10, 1976 is never far from my mind. Now I need your support to help me continue my commitment to all of you and the future congregates of Unity Church of Bakersfield.

Have a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving!