

Let's Visit

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Do We Know What Love Looks Like?

Have you ever known someone who was creative and talented? Someone who just seemed to be able to do anything? Someone who could hear a song and then play it without music? Don't you absolutely find those kind of people annoying? I know I do.

When I was a boy, I knew a man who could do anything with nothing. If he could see it, he could build it, and it didn't matter what it was. He once built a miniature bulldozer for his yard and garden. He also let kids that came to his house drive it around in his back yard. He made it from scrap iron, leftover parts and an old engine he re-built. The seat was the bottom of an old refrigerator. It wasn't real pretty, but it worked beautifully. If this man knew what something looked like, he could build it.

Maybe that's true in our lives as Christians. If we know what it looks like, we can build it. Yet, if we don't know what it looks like, we can't reproduce it. I have often thought about Jesus' command that we love one another. His command that we love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Do we know what love looks like in the life of a Christian?

When Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, he wrote to them about love in the First Corinthian letter. You see, the Christians living in Corinth were facing major problems. They lived in a very evil environment. Like every significant city in the Roman empire, idolatry influenced every aspect of their lives. Every city was full of idols and temples and Corinth was no exception. Idolatry was a part of every aspect of city politics.

Making the situation worse, Corinth was a major port city. A major trade route to Rome passed

through Corinth. The environment of the city included everything evil you would expect in a port city on a major trade route.

Societies in the Roman Empire and society in Corinth were very different from our society. Their society was a stratified society. It was a society where folks "knew their place". It was also a society with voluntary religious associations. The Christians at Corinth knew what they looked like and how they functioned. Paul's letter suggests the church in Corinth was conducting itself as a typical pagan religious association. They knew how to do that. They knew what it looked like.

It is somewhat strange that a letter written to an ungodly, troubled church contains what we consider a classic piece of biblical literature. This church at Corinth had some horrible problems. Division was a major problem and sexual immorality was a significant issue. There was selfishness running rampant in this church along with the abuse of God's gifts.

Well, in the middle of these horrible, ungodly problems is chapter 13. You sometimes see this chapter read at weddings. Sometimes it is read to motivate folks to a nobler life. This chapter challenges us to develop a greater spiritual vision.

These Christians knew what division and rivalry looked like. They knew what sexual

(Continued on page 2)

In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m.

Gathered Here and There

What Love Looks Like – continued from page 1

Immorality looked like, They knew about taking a brother to a pagan court. They knew about prostitution, selfishness, jealousy, pettiness, meanness and self-centered behavior. Yet, they did not know what love looked like. So Paul proceeds to tell them what love looks like. He described love in simple and understandable terms. He contrasted love to the religious things that they knew. He explained that love was the only enduring, eternal spiritual quality that existed.

If they were listening, what Paul said in the first three verses was devastating. These people placed a high premium on speaking in tongues. Paul tells them that if he could speak every human language and the language spoken in heaven and did not have love, it would be just empty meaningless sounds.

They also placed a high premium on their selfish use of gifts. Paul tells them that if he had the gift of being able to prophecy and to know all mysteries, he would still be nothing without love.

He told them that he could have the faith to move a mountain, he could give everything he had to feed the poor, and even sacrifice his life and it would be of no benefit without love.

The Corinthians knew what tongue speaking looked like, they knew what prophecy looked like, they knew what miraculous faith looked like and they knew what being a great patron looked like. But there was a problem. The Corinthians did not know what love looked like. They knew what quarreling, rivalry, selfishness, self-centeredness, lust, sexual immorality and spiritual gifts looked like, but they did not know what love looked like.

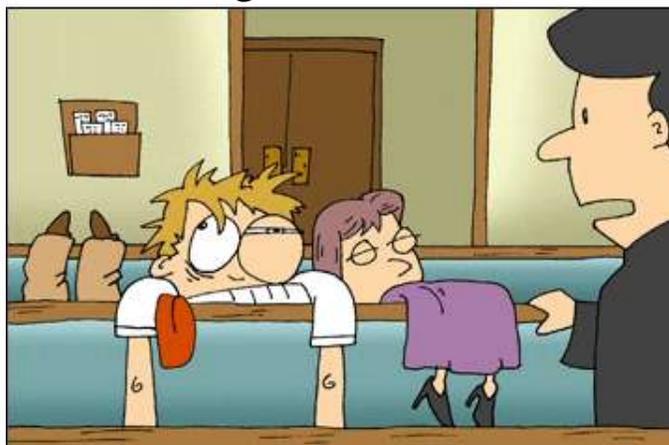
So Paul proceeds to tell them what love looks like. He tells them that love is patient and kind, it is not jealous, bragging and arrogant. He informs them that love is not rude nor selfish and is not constantly ready for an argument and does not keep a list of wrongs. He goes on to tell them that love never finds joy in what is evil but always finds joy in what is Godly.

As he told them all of this, it did not resemble anything happening at Corinth! That was the reason things in this church were in such a mess. It was not just that they were not loving each other. It was that they did not even know what love looked like.

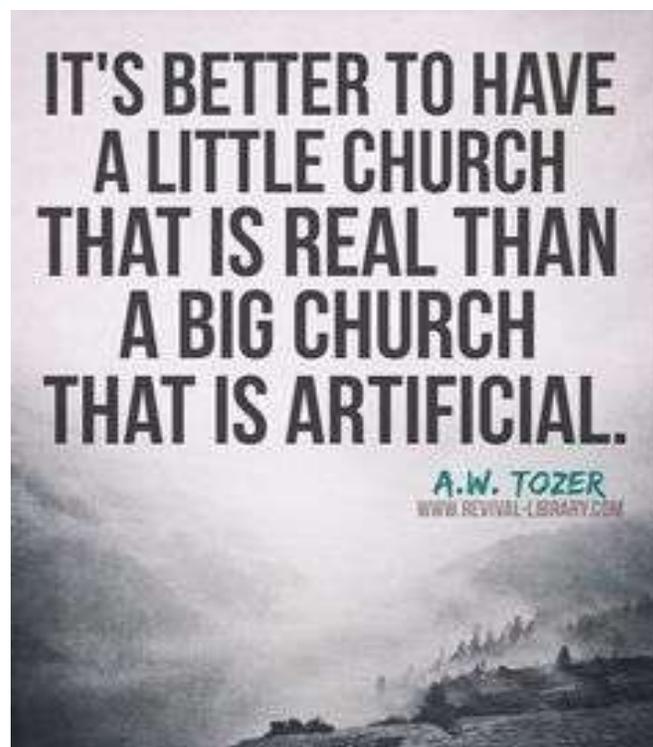
There is a great lesson in this for us. We need to show those around us what love looks like. We live in a country, a culture and a society that does not know what love looks like anymore. It is not enough that we tell people what it looks like, we must show people what love looks like. We know what it looks like because we have seen it. We saw it on a cross and in a resurrection.

tp

On The Lighter Side.....



TELL ME HONESTLY ... MY SERMON WAS A LITTLE BIT LACKLUSTER, WASN'T IT?



Gathered Here and There



We have come to a turning point in the road. If we turn to the right it may happen that our children and our children's children will go that way; but if we turn to the left, generations yet unborn will curse our names for having been unfaithful to God and to His Word.

C. H. Spurgeon

Are You A Rusty Nail?

A strong magnet may be held over an old rusty-eaten shapeless nail without meeting any response. A bright, shining nail will leap to the magnet, attract another and through it draw yet another until several are attached.

That is how Christians are. A really genuine active, shining Christian has a tremendous attraction to Christ, is magnetized with his love and purity, attracted by his power. Through that Christian, Christ can draw others to him to share the same power and attraction.

But a rusty, unpolished, corroded Christian, cranky, defiled and selfish has very little attraction, and through them the power of Christ to win the world cannot flow.

God has enough power to wipe out every vice and every evil doctrine in this world, but he needs conductors. Rusty, untaught and unpracticed church members neither draw others near to God nor are drawn near themselves.

Your religion must be intensive before it can be extensive.

-selected

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

What Do You Save?

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21)

Tell me what a man saves and I will be able to tell you what kind of a man he is. That which is saved is usually an indication of what a man considers to be important to him. Men save money and accumulate a large bank account because they consider money important to them. Some men save string; others save pins; and still others make collections of various kinds.

It is important that we lay up treasure in heaven. He who fails to do so, has neglected the most important of all savings. A man may be rich by the standards of the world, but be a pauper in the sight of god because he has not saved the spiritual treasure which the Lord counsels us to obtain of him. Earthly treasures must be left behind. Only that which we have sent on ahead of us will count or anything at all when death approaches. Why not take inventory and answer the question, “What do you save?”

-Foster L. Ramsey

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Some Points to Ponder....

Take a tip from nature – man’s ears aren’t made to shut – his mouth is!

The test of good manners is to be able to put up with bad ones.

We reform others unconsciously when we walk uprightly.

Upcoming Events

Friends and family Day
September 8, 2019

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FOR THE PANTRY–Canned Vegetables

Our church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Anne Burson, Lee Ola Eaves, Dale Fincher, Martha Jean Golden, Rodney Golden, Sonya Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ethel Holder, Ted Holt, Dora Livingston, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Permenter, Mike Permenter, Melvin Williams, Betty Willis, Alda Yarbrough.

Our “extended family” to remember in prayer:

Jacob Benton (friend of Ann Burson) **Edward Lee Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's Brother) **Pauline Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's sister-in-law), **Jennifer Britt** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Kaden Butler** (Debra Pate's great grandson) **Ronnie Emanis** (Sue Hagler's nephew) **Mary Fleming** (Mike O'Brien's aunt) **Hugh Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother) **Mike Fults**, **Jonica Glaze** (student from Tenaha injured in serious car accident) **Virginia Goodrum** (Debra Pate's sister-in-law) **Buddy Hancock** (Martha Jean Golden's brother) **Allison Harbison**, **George Holder** (Ethel Holder's son) **Charles Paul Hughes** (Martha Bradshaw's cousin) **Larry Landry** (Glenna Noles Brother) **Juston Lout** (Patricia Lout's son) **Shirley Lout** (Mike Lout's mother) **Glynn McCleod** (brother-in-law to LaJuan Baugh, Sherry Burgay and Trish Lout) **Mitchell McLeod** (LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Trish Lout's nephew)), **Elsie Lee McDaniel** (Alice Hall's sister-in law) **Roger Scott** (LaJuan Baugh's son-in-law) **Robert Shull** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Winston Smith** (Thelma Hinton's brother) **Curtis Turner** (Norma Perkins Cousin) **Margie Weaver** (friend of Debra Pate) **Janice Williams** (Ethel Holder's daughter)

Those being treated for cancer:

Guadalupe Beltran (friend of Sue Hagler), **Denise Cox** (member at Joaquin) **Laura Cuzziippi** (Ann Burson's niece) **Harold Dawkins** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Reita Doty** (friend Ann Burson) **David Greer** (son of Gene Greer, former minister here) **Carla Holt** (Ted and Joyce Holt's daughter-in-law) **Dora Livingston**, **Connie Mettauer**, **Tem Morrison**, **Bobbie Smiley**, **Ronnie Stanfield** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Tina Vaughn** (Sue Hagler's daughter) **Jo Windham** (Betty Miller's sister-in-law)

Also remember **Leland Bradshaw** and **Amanda Bradshaw**, (Gene and Martha's son and granddaughter) in Iraq



Across The Preacher's Desk

There are very few who are unaware that Pentecost was the birthday of the New Testament Church. However, there never would have been Pentecost with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit like the Apostles had if the upper room had been like the habits of so many in our day and time. If the attitude of the upper room had been like today, then the New Testament record might have read like this:

“The meeting was called for the first day of the week; but so many things interfered that of the company of 120 only 40 were able to be in attendance. Peter and his wife had bought a cottage on Lake Galilee and were away from the hot city over the weekend. Bartholomew had guests and of course could not come. Philip and his family had been up late the night before and overslept. Andrew had a business conference about a new fishing boat. James had to stay home and cut the grass.”

All of that raises a question does it not? If the church would never have been born under those circumstances, then how can it possibly survive, much less grow under those circumstances?

That's why people need to be part of the local church and involved in the work of the local church. Until members of the body of Christ contribute a sense of vitality to the Lord's church, the world will continue to heckle our “faith” as a popular indoor sport.

So, how much responsibility do you feel toward the local church?

it's something to think about. . . .tbp

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**