



LET'S VISIT

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MUSINGS ABOUT LOVE

If I asked you to give me a definition of love, where would you start and how would you define what love is? Society has a warped view of love and how it shows up in our lives. Often love is thought of as flowing from person to person.

If you "Google" the word love, and you have to be very careful doing this, you will find all sorts of websites. You will find websites from "I love Dogs.com" to "The Love Calculator.com". Yet, there is an interesting common denominator to all of these sites. Love is seen almost as an entirely human endeavor. However, true love begins with God and is passed on to others. All true love originates with God. Mankind would have no concept of love without God loving us.

I remember an old television show from the 50's and 60's, "Art Linkletter's Houseparty"? He always had a segment of the show where he would interview children. Later, he wrote a book on those interviews entitled "Kids Say The Darndest Things".

Well, have you ever thought about love from a child's point of view? How would a child define love? I read these not long ago, "Love from a kid's point of view:"

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth."

"Love is when someone hurts you, and you get so mad, but you don't yell at them because you know it would hurt their feelings."

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay."

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."

The Greeks had four different words for love. Eros was carnal, sexual love, properly reserved for marriage. Philia was the love of close friendship, such as brotherly love. Storge was the love of family relationships. Agape was that love which seeks the highest good of others.

It is unfortunate that the English word love is not as clearly defined. Agape and Philia are the most common words for love in the Bible.

We are commanded to love God and Jesus. We are commanded to love God with our heart, soul, mind and strength. Jesus gives this command in Mark 12:30. The love that we are to have for God is agape love. We are commanded to love Jesus more than family. We are also commanded to have a love for our brethren. We are to be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, a love that is affectionate and demonstrative toward others. We are to love our families, our neighbors and our enemies.

(Continued on page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 -Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



The Transforming Power of Jesus

For The Pantry. . .
August 10 – Canned Vegetables

Offering – August 3, 2025 . . \$ 2,562.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Musings About Love – continued from page 1

Throughout the New Testament love is taught both by God and by Jesus. In fact, God gave us the supreme example of love in sending Jesus. That is what we are told in the "Golden Text" of the Bible, John 3:16. Jesus taught love by example in being willing to die for us.

Paul and Peter also taught a great deal about love. Paul teaches in the Ephesian letter that Christians are to walk in love. He also taught husbands to love their wives as much as Christ loved the church. Peter teaches us to love one another fervently and enjoins us to love the brotherhood.

When Paul writes to the church in Corinth, he expounds on love for us in chapter 13 of the first letter. He told us that love suffers long and is kind. Love does not envy. Love does not parade itself and is not puffed up. Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked and thinks no evil. Love does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things. Love never fails. True love is everlastingly kind, patient, humble, polite and assumes the best in others.

What is love? It is heartfelt affection toward God and man. It is active good will toward everyone. If we are lacking in heartfelt affection and active good will, we need to acknowledge the deficiency as an indication of spiritual immaturity. What we need to do is be willing to relearn love. When we find that we need to learn to love others with a heartfelt love, we look to the Father, to Jesus, to the apostles and to other Christians.

We need to keep the words of I Peter 1:22-23 constantly before us. Peter writes, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." (KJV) I like the way "The Message" puts this passage. "Now that you've cleaned up your lives by following the truth, love one another as if your lives depended on it".

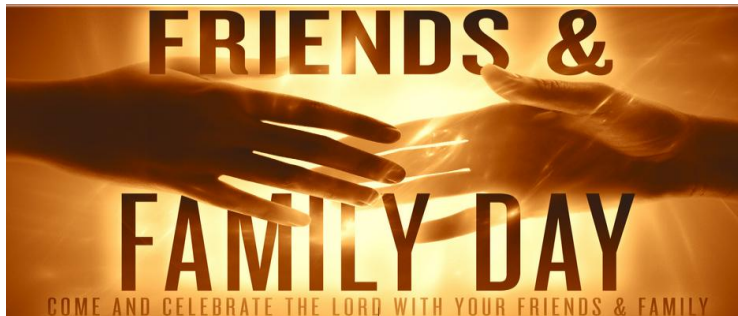
Perhaps that would be a good way for us to live, as if our lives depended on having love for one another.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



"The question is, how do we win the world to Christ . . . with a minimum of fuss and bother?"



September 7, 2025

Put this date on your calendar, make your plans to be here and invite ALL your family and friends to come and join us for worship and lunch!

Let's make this the greatest "Friends and Family Day" in the history of the Center Church of Christ!

Hospitality group 3 will be in charge of this luncheon. The members of that group are: LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Liela Klein, Lieza Klein, Tiffanee Klein and Trish Lout.

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Communion Preparation for August
Manny & Brittany Ortiz

Men's Business Meeting
Today – August 10, 2025
Immediately following the morning worship in the Church Offices.



All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.



This past Wednesday night we had an enjoyable time of fellowship as we shared our meal together and then spent the next hour in singing and fellowship.

Plan to join us for our next Wednesday night meal on Wednesday, August 27, 2025.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) Richard Barbee (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) David Bissett (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) Dwayne Brister (Cissy Amos' cousin) Jane Adams Burkhalter (Diedra Hughes' cousin) Debra Clifton (friend of LaResa Livingston) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) Leta Dozier (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Emily Heflin (Mike Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) Suzi Hogan (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) Ted Holt (former member of this congregation) Wynell Lawson (Diedra Hughes' aunt) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Norma Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Lane O'Brien (Mike and Jana's son) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; J. C. Tate & Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) Calvin Turner (Norma Perkins Uncle) Norman Turner (Norma Perkins' father) Tyson Turner (Norma Perkins' cousin) Max Windham (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday
December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

I was cooking my oatmeal the other morning, and before you could say, "how did it happen", it had! I didn't turn the heat down on the stove and my oatmeal boiled over. Now, let's be honest, any good cook turns the heat down when the pot begins to boil. There is nothing good accomplished by uncontrolled boiling. The food in the pot sticks to the pan and burns or bubbles over the side and is lost.

In case you wonder where this is going, here it is. Some of us are better cooks than we are Christians. We are smart enough to keep our food from burning and boiling over. However, we have not yet learned how to control the boiling in our spirits. Too often, we allow old hurts, resentments, jealousies and hatreds to burn high inside us until they boil over and make a mess of everything.

A good cook learns to turn down the heat and keep the cooking under control. Doing this, all the goodness and flavor is preserved and there isn't a pot to be scrubbed and soaked to get the burned food out of it. Maybe it's time we learned to turn down the heat on the things that trouble us. Maybe we need to remember the words of the Psalmist, "Be still, and know that I am God". (Psalms 46:10) Pause this week, turn down the heat, and reflect on the goodness of God.

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**