

Let's Visit

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Reflections On 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. Actually somewhere around 120,000,00 of them. 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.

Do you 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

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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. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

"Making A Difference"

Our text comes from Matthew chapter 5. Jesus calls us to be the "Salt of the Earth". Then, he later gives us an example of this taking place in the story of the Good Samaritan..

FOR THE PANTRY....

Macaroni and Cheese

Reflections on Love – continued from page 1

for our brethren. We are to be kindly affectionate to one another with brother love, a love that is affectionate and demonstrative toward others. We are to love our families, our neighbors and our enemies.

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.

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On The Lighter Side....



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

Miscellaneous



We regret that we had to cancel our dinner this month. We look forward to the next one.

Remember-

We are collecting toilet paper for the Children's Home of Lubbock. There is a basket in the foyer for you to place the toilet paper in. They will be here the end of May to pick up what we have collected. Let's make sure they have a trailer load!



Remember, that even though we are not requiring the wearing of masks in our assembly, we do still want to do everything we can to be safe both for ourselves and for others. We would therefore ask that we all remain aware of social distancing and being respectful of other's personal space. Hopefully this "present distress" will be a thing of the past soon and life can return to normal.

Additionally, the governor has lifted the statewide mask mandate effective this coming Wednesday (March 10th) Hopefully this will signal a return to "normal" and folks can get back to church. We will hope and pray for this.

In fact, perhaps by "Easter Sunday" we can begin to return to more normal



Those To Remember In Prayer

Wayne Sims had a biopsy on Tuesday of this past week and is awaiting results.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Danny Johnson** (Leon Aldridge's cousin) who passed away. His services were yesterday (Saturday) in Sweetwater, Texas.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of **Ray Renick** (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) who passed away this past week. His services were yesterday in Marshall, Texas.

THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick (back issues) **Gene Bradshaw** (recovering from surgery), **Martha Jean Golden** (recovering from a bad fall) **Betty Miller** (pneumonia) **Wayne Sims** (cancer);

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Butler (Debra Pate's grandson) **Peytin Cook** (Betty Miller's great-grandaughter) **Gracie Elam** (6 month old baby recovering from heart surgery) **Connie Hargrove** (Covid 19) **Dalton Hendrix** (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) **Ernie Hill** (Jerry Pate's cousin) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Foy Metcalf** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) **Jared and Natalie Tate** (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother, broken hip); **Royce Ann Wiggins** (lung damage from Covid Pneumonia) **Stephen Wiggins** (Recovering from broken leg and Covid 19)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Lucas Tate

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.

The Strength of the Early Church

A Personal Commitment to the Cause of Christ

Philippians 3:7-14



Across The Preacher's Desk

Words are wonderful things. They have a beauty and eloquence all their own. Yet, there is often an eloquence without words. "Silence is golden" someone has said. Silence can also be eloquent. Jesus was the master at using the eloquence of silence. He used it many times.

A woman was brought to Him who had been caught in the act of adultery. The law said such a person must be put to death. What must Jesus say? He was silent. He stooped down and wrote in the sand. He said, "Let the sinless one throw the first stone". Then He went on writing. When He looked up, His words and His wise silence had done their work. All the accusers were gone. A penitent woman stood there alone.

He told Peter of the sin he would commit in denial. Peter argued. The day of trial came and Peter sinned. At the right time, Jesus turned and looked at Peter. That was all. He just looked. That was enough to make Peter go out and weep bitterly.

In His trial, He refuted all charges made against Him. The paid liars came back with their exploded stories. It was then Jesus fulfilled a prophecy made about Him and opened not His mouth. The judge and others wondered. But the judge was so impressed with him that he pronounced Him innocent of all fault as he pronounced the sentence of death.

Silence is golden. Silence can be as eloquent as words. Knowing when to speak and when to be silent is one mark of real wisdom.

it's something to think about.tbp

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**