

Upcoming Events

Business Meeting: Today at 4:30 p.m.
Ladies Bible Class: April 19 at 4:00 p.m.
Preliminary Planning for Fall 2020 Meeting
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: TBD

Let Us Love One Another

Excerpt from article by Kevin Rutherford

The greatest example of love is God's love for mankind (1 John 4:10-11). God sent His Son to die for us. That gives evidence of tremendous love. We love God because He loved us and made it possible for our sins to be removed. John drew an important conclusion based upon these facts. ***"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another"*** (1 John 4:11).

April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson 16 Alana Hudson
23 Shannon Hudson 26 Stori Rose Hoffman

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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A True Friend

By Kevin Cauley

What does it take to be a true friend? Proverbs 17:17 says *"A friend loveth at all times; and a brother is born for adversity."* A true friend is someone who loves you at all times, and someone who is willing to go through adversity with you. Not too many people are willing to do that, and when you find someone who will, you know that this is the kind of person that you want to have around. Those who will not do this may be superficial friends, but not friends that are true.



Proverbs 27:17 says, *"Iron sharpeneth iron; So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."* The notion here is that friends challenge one another to improve their attitudes. A good friend is not going to let you pass when you appear to be affected by something. He is going to inquire as to your problems and show genuine care and concern for them. Perhaps one of the greatest attestations of friendship in the Bible is what Jesus said in John 15:13, *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* This verse is often cited at the funerals of those who have given their lives for others. Self-sacrifice and the

ability to give to others meaningfully—without expecting anything in return—is the ultimate character of a friend. Faithfulness, encouragement, and self-sacrifice make up the core of what the Bible teaches is the character of a true friend. Are we being this kind of friend to others? God certainly has been this kind of friend to us, and will be, if we will let Him in. God bless you and I love you.

Cleaning Out the Barn

Mark McCrary

Growing up, this was the job I hated the most (and, hated is not too strong a word). Three times a week I had to clean out the feed room in the barn. That includes everything you think would be included. It was a stinky, unpleasant job. I did it because it was my chore to do. I did it because dad made me.

Fast forward 30 years. Saturday afternoon I was feeding the cows for Pop. I finished his instructions and was about to leave the feed room when I noticed how dirty the floor was. I looked over and saw the shovel to the side and decided to clean the floor for him. I did the same thing that I'd done 30 years ago. It was just as unpleasant. But this time I did it not because I had to, but because I love him.

Obedience to God is kind of like that. Early on in our spiritual life, we obey because we have to; we do what we're told. Somewhere along the way, though — if you're really growing — we start obeying because we love him. Tasks that seemed to be so difficult at one point become much more bearable. That's why — long term — love is a far better motivator in Christian service than fear or obligation.

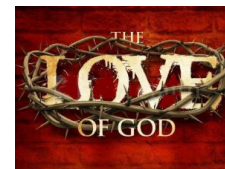
“If you love me, you will keep My commandments”

(John 14:15)

The Love of God

By Robert Notgrass

Paul said, *“Nay, in all things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”* (Romans 8:37). He then catalogues things that cannot affect Christ's love for us.



The love of God is unaffected by our conditions of life. (Romans 8:38). A *“thorn in the flesh”* does not mean that Christ does not love us. It may best that we have problems so that we may not be *“exalted over much.”* (2 Corinthians 12:7) The grace of God can make perfect our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). Even in death Christ has not forsaken us. Death does not affect the soul for which Christ died. In death there is only a change of the condition of the soul from an earthly abode to a spiritual realm.

The love of God is unaffected by the order of things. (Romans 8:38) *“Neither . . . angels, nor principalities, nor the things present, nor things to come”* will cause Christ to cease loving us. Trials may lead us nearer or away from Christ. Whatever may be our burdens and problems he still loves us.

The love of God is raised above the power of time. Neither things *“present, nor things to come”* will affect the love God for us. His love is constant. Christ loved us even when we were sinners—that is the reason he died for us.

The love of God is present everywhere. *“Neither height, nor depth . . . shall be able to separate us from the love of God.”* God is and he cares. He is not like a helpless idol nor a sitting Buddha.

It would be wonderful if our love for Christ was as firm as His love for us. God loves us but He hates sin. Sin can separate us from God. It is idle talk to say we love God and do not what he says. *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”* (1 John 5:3)