

## Upcoming Events

**Business Meeting:** July 14 at 4:30 p.m.

**Ladies Bible Class:** July 21 at 4:00 p.m.

**Fall 2019 meeting:** Final Planning

**Panera Bread Open Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

**Hebrews class** Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

## The Love of God

~~*“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*~~

Romans 8:37-39 (NASB)

## July Birthdays

22 Morgie McKnight

30 Willie Henderson

### Regular Meeting Times

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

**Preacher:**  
Mike McKnight

**Church of Christ**  
81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

Vol. 30 No. 27

July 7, 2019

## The Importance of Humility

By Jon Mitchell

The Psalmist tells us that God distances himself from the proud (Psalms 138:6). In fact, a proud look not only separates one from God, it causes one to incur his wrath! This is undoubtedly why James wrote, “*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*” (James 4:6). But what is humility, really? What does humility demand, require, express, and acknowledge?



James went on to say, “*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7). Humility demands full submission to God. It’s difficult to teach those who think they are so wise that they already know enough. Because He gives grace to the humble, God’s people must put off their own desires and accept His law and love. This requires resisting satan and his temptations to follow our own desires. That is what fully submitting to God means. Let us have the Bible and eternity in our minds and entirely adhere to sound Scripture in submission to God!

Then James said, “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands...purify your hearts...*” (James 4:8). Humility requires seeking God’s favor and mercy. One who seeks His favor and a close relationship with Him must be willing to come to Him, for He does not force Himself upon men. This is a decision based upon an individual’s faith and obedience. However, the key is WORK. It is not easy to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts, but that is what must be done.

Furthermore, James tells us we must “*lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom*” (James 4:9). Humility must express appropriate sorrow for sin. The sin that used to be fun and brighten our day must now ruin our days. It must make us feel absolutely terrible. That cannot happen unless we realize that sin will condemn us to hell, and therefore is a serious matter. Only then will we be like the tax collector, a man so sorrowful for his sins that he wouldn’t even look up to heaven but instead wailed, “*God, be merciful to me a sinner!*” (Luke 18:13)

Finally, James concludes by saying, “*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up*” (James 4:10). Humility must acknowledge the sight of the Lord. The Psalmist and the prodigal son recognized that they had sinned against God and heaven (Psalms 51:4; Luke 15:18). God is the primarily the One against whom our sins are committed, and God is the only One who can pardon our sins. When we recognize that, it helps bring about humility.

God gives grace to the humble. While men repeatedly sin against Him, God joyfully accepts those who take action and come to Him in repentance (Luke 15:22-24). The way to heaven is to realize our sins and shortcomings, and humbly depend upon the will of an all-powerful God for our eternal salvation.

## **Love Demands Everything That God Commands**

By Gerald Cowan

*“A new commandment I give to you: Love each other as I have loved you.”* John 13:34 Love is not blind. It cannot afford to be. It cannot ignore the truth, whitewash sin, weaken the gospel, or minimize the difference between Christians and non-Christians. Love cannot support peaceful co-existence of the followers of Christ with followers of Satan. The reason is obvious: the goals of love and peace and salvation, the ultimate good for everyone. There is no fellowship, no common ground, no agreement, and no peace between God and the ungodly (2 Corinthians 6:14-16). There is no salvation for those who are at odds with God (2 Corinthians 6:17). It may be difficult for some to understand, but God and His people demand righteousness, exhort to temperance, warn of judgment, and deny fellowship to some without any loss of love and with no contradiction of love.

Keep in mind as we continue here that the love we have for each other is patterned after the love God has for us (1 John 4:8-10, John 13:34). We are not permitted to define love to suit ourselves and then expect God to approve us just because we are true to our own code or creed (see 2 Corinthians 10:12, 18). Here are a few aspects of the love of God which we are commanded to follow in our relationships with each other.

■ This love is not emotional. It is not the syrupy sentiment often called love. For a definition of the kind of love God requires and commands, read 1 Corinthians 13:4-13. It is greater than faith, greater than hope because it is of the essence of God (1 John 4:8). We cannot say “God is faith, or God is hope” but we can say “God is love.”

■ Love does not hide or overlook the flaws and imperfections of others. Instead it is painfully aware of those things. True love seeks perfect awareness of both strengths and weaknesses in the beloved. Not in order to condemn but in order to be of help in correcting and compensating for flaws and to capitalize and utilize the strengths in the best interests of everyone – to help, not to hinder; to make acceptable, not to find excuses for rejecting. Heb. 4:12-16, 1 Peter 4:8, James 5:20

■ Love is critical, both positively and negatively. It seeks truth, not error (1 Cor. 13:6), but it recognizes error and calls attention to it when it is found (Gal. 6:1-2). It sees things as they are and then tries to change them into what they should be.

■ Love does not require indiscriminate acceptance and approval of all person. God himself does not accept those who refuse to obey Him (2 Thess. 1:7-9). God continues to love all people and desire their salvation (2 Peter 3:9 and 1 Tim. 2:4). But He accepts and saves only those who seek Him and do His will. Heb. 5:9 and 11:6, Mt. 7:21-23.

■ Love is selective and discriminating. This is not the same thing as prejudice or partiality. Love is devoted first to God and then to others by the will of God (2 Cor. 8:5). It does not require us to accept in fellowship those who are opposed to God or will not abide by the will of God (2 Thess. 3:6, 3:14-15). Love does not require or even allow us to accept what God rejects.

This kind of love allows one to acknowledge the true spiritual condition of every person without any loss of concern or appreciation for the person. This kind of love is truly Christian.