

Upcoming Events

Business Meeting: March 8 at 4:30 p.m.

Daylight savings time begins: March 8; move clocks ahead

Ladies Bible Class: March 15 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Thank You!

What a “Last-Saturday-in-February” meeting we’ve had! What an opportunity! What a motivational experience! Our thanks to brothers **Anthony Johns, Les Cunningham, and John Lasater.**

And thanks to brothers **David Hall** and **Rick Lovelady** for helping out with our wonderful song service. We thank everyone who helped make this such a wonderful and successful meeting!

March Birthdays

8 Drina Zamarripa. 18 Buddy Cashion
28 Sandra Jones 30 Barrett Hoffman

March Anniversaries

6 Harold & Dortha Gentry

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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Romans 12:10

“Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another”

(From Barnes' Notes on the Bible)

“Be kindly affectioned” - The word used here occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. It properly denotes tender affection, such as what subsists between parents and children; and it means that Christians should have similar feelings toward each other, as belonging to the same family, and as united in the same principles and interests. The Syriac renders this, "Love your brethren, and love one another;" compare 1 Peter 2:17.

“With brotherly love” - Or in love to the brethren. The word denotes the affection which subsists between brethren. The duty is one which is often presented in the New Testament, and which our Savior intended should be regarded as a badge of discipleship; see the note at John 13:34-35, *“By this shall all people know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another;”* (John 15:12, John 15:17; Ephesians 5:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 2:7-8; 1 John 3:11, 1 John 3:23; 1 John 4:20-21). The apostle Paul in this place manifests his unique manner of writing. He does not simply enjoin brotherly love, but he adds that it should be kindly affectioned. It should be with the tenderness which characterizes the most endearing natural relationship. This he expresses by a word which is made for the occasion (φιλοστοργοὶ philostorgoi), blending love with natural affection, and suffering it to be manifest in your contact with one another.

“In honor” - In showing or manifesting respect or honor. Not in seeking honor, or striving after respect, but in showing it to one another.

“Preferring one another” - The word "preferring" means going before, leading, setting an example. Thus, in showing mutual respect and honor, they were to strive to excel; not to see which could obtain most honor, but which could confer most, or manifest most respect; compare 1 Peter 1:5; Ephesians 5:21. Thus, they were to be studious to show to each other all the respect which was due in the various relations of life; children to show proper respect to parents, parents to children, servants to their masters, etc.; and all to strive by mutual kindness to promote the happiness of the Christian community. How different this from the spirit of the world; the spirit which seeks, not to confer honor, but to obtain it; which aims, not to diffuse respect, but to attract all others to give honor to us. If this single direction were to be obeyed in society, it would put an end at once to no small part of the envy, and ambition, and heartburning, and dissatisfaction of the world. It would produce contentment, harmony, love, and order in the community; and stay the progress of crime, and annihilate the evils of strife, and discord, and malice. And especially, it would give order and beauty to the church. It would humble the ambition of those who, like Diotrophes, love to have the pre-eminence (3 John 1:9), and make every man willing to occupy the place for which God has designed him, and rejoice that his brethren may be exalted to higher posts of responsibility and honor.

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.