

Upcoming Events

Panera Bread Open Bible Study:
New location: see church website

Love for One Another

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” 1 John 4:10-11

“Love one another”: No command is simpler; no command more difficult. - Mark Hart -

September Birthdays

3 Wendy Cortes 11 Marie Burruss 15 Marcos Perales
16 Jim Burruss 24 Mason Perales
30 Dortha Gentry 30 Kurt Hoffman

October Birthdays

3 Betty Heitmeyer 28 Allan 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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Holy Kisses, Holy Hugs, and Holy Elbow Bumps

By Dan Jenkins

“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples because you love one another” (John 13:35). Love is seen in the way we react to each other as we meet and then as we later leave. The love of the father for the prodigal son was visibly seen as he rushed toward him. What did the father do to the barefooted son in ragged clothes who had been among the swine? He embraced him and kissed him. Contrast this with how the older brother reacted.



**Greet one another
with a Holy Kiss**

When Paul spoke of greeting one another with a holy kiss, he was not instituting a new form of greeting. Some focus only on the kiss, while Paul’s emphasis was on the nature of the kiss. The kiss of Judas in Gethsemane was far removed from being holy—it was hypocritical.

Kissing is only one way to greet. It varies in different cultures. Some reverently bow toward the other person with folded hands. In other places, there is kissing on the cheeks—either one or both. Then, there are those where greetings are shown by rubbing one’s nose against another’s. How each of these is done can show

respect, honor or love. Paul's emphasis was not on the kiss, but its genuine sincerity.

It is interesting to note how often the Bible talks about what happened after the kiss. Joseph revealed himself to his brethren. The text says he embraced Benjamin, kissed all his brothers and "...after that his brothers talked with him" (Genesis 45:14). The kiss was just the beginning. It was what followed that really showed his heart. Think again of the kiss of Judas and what followed.

In Acts 21, Paul arrived in Jerusalem and greeted the elders. What happened next? "*He told in detail the things God had done among the Gentiles.*" The emphasis is not on the greeting but what followed. Paul greeted in writings. He greeted 24 people in just 13 verses in Romans 16. Culture often determines the nature of the greeting. The heart determines how sincere it is.

We see genuine brotherly love so often. Think of what spontaneously happens after one is baptized and is welcomed into the kingdom. You see it again when one is restored. It is seen in the compassion at funerals.

In recent days, we have experienced new ways of greeting. In view of the contagious virus, there are still shaking hands or embracing others. Far more will bump fists—where did that come from? Some teens bump toes as they greet. Who would have ever thought Americans would ever greet by bumping elbows! Remember there are holy kisses, holy hugs, holy fists, and holy elbows. It is what follows the greetings that matters!

The Right Kind of Attitude

Excerpts from article By Tim Dooley

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus"
(Philippians 2:5)

Boy do we ever think a lot of ourselves! For most of us the universe revolves around our own little puny existence. That's right...we are selfish, self-centered, egotistical, snobbish, arrogant, and hypocritical. And that fact that most Christians, young and old, think and act like this certainly brings reproach upon the church of Jesus and the name of Christ. But the truth is we are not any different today than man has been for most of his earthly existence.

God knew that we would be and act like this but not because He made us this way but because of sin. Yes, this kind of attitude is sinful! Did you here that? I don't get my way and I get mad, pout, and seek revenge (I'll show them) and I am sinning! I don't like what someone else has done, or not done, and so I run to others and gossip or talk badly about them and I am sinning! When confronted with my actions I get defensive and angry and either lie about it or try to put the blame upon others and I am sinning.

Jesus said, "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another*" (John 13:34). We all need to follow this godly instruction if we hope to go to heaven. Our children are often guilty of these kinds of behaviors and maybe they have learned them from us. Instead of seeking to justify their behavior maybe we should use these as teachable moments and set an example ourselves of how to properly respond to bad things (real or imagined) that others do to us.

For the faithful Christian none of what may happen to us (good or bad) should cause us to act in an un-Christ-like manner. This past week a dear friend reminded me that "This too shall pass, or I will." And he is right. We make a bigger deal out of small things than need be that in the great scheme of things will not matter. What matters most is living a faithful, obedient, and acceptable life in the sight of God and being with Him in heaven when this life is over. I love you!