

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

Lord's Day:	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Our Elders:

Johnie Dodds 643-6621
Harry Elliott 731-692-3924
Austin Willis 627-2319

Our Deacons:

Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Sawyers

Our Preacher: T. Sean Sullivan 627-3514

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

Love Makes the Difference

Introduction:

With most pursuits there are extremes. There are those who know nothing but emotionless rules and there are those at the other extreme who know nothing but rule-free emotions. We must understand that the success of God's plan is found in neither of those extremes. Emotionless rules will not bring us profit (1 Corinthians 13:1-4) and at the other extreme rule-free emotions will not bring us profit either (Matthew 28:19; John 14:15).

So where is the truth? When truth is bound, presented, and equaled by love; success is found (John 4:24). The whole character of love is given to us by our God—Who possesses all of the ideals of true love. We need to learn from God what love is. We need to seek and know the necessities of love in this relationship. We need to grasp the concept that love makes the difference. Please open your text and consider these details as in light of the scriptures as you read. Doing this with in the proper pursuit the love we learn from God.

God's Love is True

God's love is true to His values. The greatest point of confidence that has been provided is wrapped up the fact that God is completely good. Evil is not in His character (Deuteronomy 32:3-4). Dishonesty is never near Him (Revelation 21:27). Integrity of word and deed is His way—Righteousness is from Him and altogether is His character (Psalm 19:9).

God's love is true to our needs. God's love comes from His

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goodness (1 John 4:8) and God loves all people (John 3:16). We must understand that only those who focus their lives on His righteousness will find His love in eternity (Revelation 22:14-15).

We are to love in the same character as God. Our love must be in keeping with godly values. Our love is to be without hypocrisy (Romans 12:9). Our words “without hypocrisy” are a translation of one word in the original language; the Greek term *anupokritos*. This word was descriptive of the actors removing their masks after the play to reveal their true selves. Our love is never to be a mask that is “put on” it is to be real always. Our love is also not for personal gain (Jude 12-23) we are to love for the gain of others.

Our love must be true to the needs of our selves—loving in way as to bring full effect to our service before God (Mark 12:30). Our love must also be true to the needs of our brethren—loving them enough to provide willingly (Romans 12:10-13). Our love must also extend toward our fellow man—including our friends, family, and all our earthly neighbors. Loving them enough to set our fears aside and share the hope of God’s love with them.

God’s Love is Sacrificial

Is it even possible to begin an understanding of a love that would motivate God to give as He has—His Son? It certainly challenges the human mind to fathom such a thought of love. There is truly no comparison to the sacrificial love that God has shown us through the offering of our Savior Jesus. As John says, “*God so loved...*” there is much in that little word “so” (John 3:16). Paul proclaims that God, through the giving of hope through His Son, has “*demonstrated His own love toward us*” (Romans 5:6-8). God loves us in such a way as to offer hope even though we have sinned against Him (Romans 3:23). We would have a fitting end being separated from Him (Romans 6:23a) but God has lovingly provided the gift of His Son as payment of our debt, to allow us freedom from our self-inflicted burdens (Romans 6:23).

Do we even attempt to demonstrate such a love in our lives? It is easy to love when it costs nothing. It is much more difficult to love when you are the one who must be patient, kind, and humble. It is not easy to maintain the example of love when others do not return love.

What about having to love when it costs? When it costs us time and energy? Meeting the needs of other is a time-consuming thing that requires work on our part (Romans 12:10-13). Remember what God has given, to show us what love really means, and in turn demonstrate to other by giving of your self to show them.

Love Makes the Difference

Back to 1 Corinthians 13:1-4 Paul tells us, “if I *‘have not love’*

all the good works accomplished *‘profits me nothing’*”. We need God’s love—His grace and mercy (2 John 3); His direction (James 1:17-18); and His care (1 Peter 5:7). We also must possess a willingness to offer love to others (John 13:34-35; 1 Thessalonians 4:9).

There are some who think they love but their actions prove otherwise. This is based on a statement from 1 Peter 4:8 where Peter says, “*Above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins*”. Many will easily look past the faults of ones they love; but will constantly find aggravation and cause for complaint in the littlest things in others they do not love. Peter instructs us to give primary effort to the development of this “fervent love” to avoid the deterioration of our relationship.

When one watches their brethren like a hawk, waiting for the next misstep to point out and complain about we do not love as we should. The lack of love is made apparent by a purposed avoidance of the plan to gain back our brethren found in Matthew 18:15-17. When we do not love our brother or sister we go and tell others and break the rules causing our own selves to sin—since it is a sin to transgress the law of God (1 John 3:4)

The difference between “people we happen to go to church with” and “the family that we are all supposed to be” is love. The words of Hebrews 10:24 tell us to “*consider one another in order to stir up love and good works*”. Then Hebrews 10:25, provides us with the opportunity: during the “*assembling*” of the church together—which is not to be avoided. We come together to work together effectively because we love God (Mark 12:30); we love our brethren (John 13:34-35); and only together will we become what we need to be (Ephesians 4:16).

Conclusion:

With most pursuits there are extremes: Those who know nothing but emotionless rules. Those who know nothing but rule-free emotions; the success of God’s plan is found in neither of these extremes. Emotionless rules will not bring us profit (1 Corinthians 13:1-4) and neither will rule-free emotions (Matthew 28:19; John 14:15)

So where is the truth? When truth is bound, presented, and equaled by love; success is found (John 4:24).

God teaches us to love by the love that He shows. The opportunities of love abound with blessing of every new day. Through His love God has provided you with a pattern to follow in order to be saved. Do you love God enough to follow His plan? The opportunity for your obedience is now! ~tss
