

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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July 19, 2020

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

by Rickie Jenkins

There are very few times in our lives that Jody and I have been apart for more than a week at a time. I noticed two things happening during those times. One was the more we were apart the fonder we became. The greater the longing to be together again. Second, also, the further apart we felt it becomes easier to question each other or become more critical. It is an interesting contrast of emotions, longing on one hand and questioning on the other hand.

When we come back together the longing trumps the questioning. Now we see each other. Now we can communicate directly. Now we see each other face to face. The fondness is rewarded and the other evaporates into nothingness.

But, why the questioning? Because, we

miss each other and need to see each other. It is not a lack of trust, but the separation separates us. We were not meant to be separated. We were meant to be together. Together we are better. Apart we are not all there. Someone is missing.

I also observe that is true in other relationships. It is true of our relationship as brothers and sisters. Today, we are immersed in “Social Distancing.” Right or wrong, that is not good for us. Emails, texts, social media are poor substitutes for face to face contact with each other. In fact, many times those mediums cause problems. They can be useful when we see each other on a regular basis. At best, they are supplemental to our relationships. They do not function well as the primary source of our being connected. It is too

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easy to read something into what is said that was never intended. But, “We should know each other and trust each other.” Yes, true. But the separation has created a distance that impedes necessary communication, not verbal but physical. It does not mean trust is lost. It means we need to see each other. Then when we see each other the distance fades as if it never happened.

“Social Distancing” may stop the spread of a virus but also creates a virus. It is called surmising. When we begin to surmise, our minds run wild regarding anything said in a text, email or social medium. We begin to think things of others we would never have thought of thinking before. Relationships are not better but grow worse. Close ties are frayed. Confidence in each other becomes suspicious. Emotions become intensified. We begin to interpret everything with a jaundiced eye. If the “social distancing” is not soon ended, relationships can be irreparably harmed.

We sing, “Blest Be the Tie That Binds.” It is a song that speaks of mutual love, concern, comfort and being together. It says we feel inward pain when we are apart. It says we need each other. Christians are not meant to be apart. Our mutual relationship is strengthened when we are together. Then all the woes vanish. Affirmation is reassured. Approval is confirmed. Affection is received. Acceptance is renewed.

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain.
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - cancelled until further notice.

Services for June & July - For the months of June and July, we have decided to recombine the services. We will meet for **one** service at 10:45 a.m. There will **not** be a Bible class or evening service, and there still will **not** be a Wednesday evening service. We will re-evaluate toward the end of July. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens
Jack Wilson
Jerry Richardson
Karen Hallmark
Shirley Perkins' brother, Leon
Morgan O'Hair
Dinah Williams
Joy Ulrich
Kevin Barth
Lisa Trammel
Joel and Tori Moore

And continue to pray for each other

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

