

Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. • Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

OCTOBER 6, 2024

Love Is Fundamental

by Ken Weliever

Several years ago I heard a story about a psychology professor who believed that parents should not punish or spank their children. His motto: "Just love your children."

Although he had no children of his own, whenever he saw a neighbor scolding a child for some wrongdoing, he would say, "You should love your boy, not punish him."

One hot summer afternoon the professor was pouring a concrete driveway leading to his garage. Worn-out after several hours of work, he laid down the towel, wiped the perspiration from his forehead, and started toward the house.

Just then out of the corner of his eye he saw a mischievous little boy putting his foot into the fresh cement. He rushed over, grabbed him, and was about to spank him.

At that moment, a neighbor from across the street hollered, "Watch it, Professor! Don't you remember? You must 'love' the child!"

"I do love him in the abstract," yelled back the professor. "But not in the concrete!"

Today, we conclude our series from 2 Peter 1:5-9 on the

fundamental virtues we must add to our faith with the quality of love.

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

Love is difficult to define. But Deity is the epitome of love. "God is love" John, the apostle of love, affirms (1 Jn.4:16). He is the essence of love.

In fact, the Bible never defines it. But it does describe love. In concrete terms.

The great love chapter of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13 describes the action and attitude of love.

This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience—it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It

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.

Important Dates

Our Gospel Meeting with Ruben Amador is scheduled for October 13-16

Gospel Meeting - Cedar Park, October 13-16

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, October 18-20

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

does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails.

Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.” (13:4-8, J. B. Phillips)

There are four things I know about love from this text.

(1) Love is a command. It is not optional. A specific command. Christ calls upon his followers to “love one another.” Other passages command us to “love your enemies.” “Love your neighbor.” “Love your husband” Love your wife.”

(2) Love is a commitment. Love requires resolve. Dedication. A commitment to live on a higher level. To love on a more noble plane.

(3) Love is a choice. It is a decision. A determination of the will. A personal and conscious choice we make to love another person.

(3) Love is a conduct. Love is not an easy command to follow or a casual commitment to make, or a simple choice. Why? Because love is not an impulse. Or an urge. Or a feeling.

Love issues itself in action. In conduct. In behavior. Love is a verb. It is easy to say “I love you,” but difficult to love when the object of our affection acts unlovable. When people become difficult. Derisive. Or demanding. When others become unkind, irritating, or just plain hateful, we are called upon to be kind. To endure. Not to lose patience.

The 15 qualities of love from 1 Corinthians 13 describe the character and true nature of love. They challenge us. They

call us to act like our Lord. To be different from the world. To do more than “talk the talk,” but “to walk the walk.” When love is added to our faith along with the other qualities and they are increasing Peter says we will be effective and fruitful “in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Indeed if we love, really love others, it must not be in the abstract. But in the concrete!

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jay Parker’s father has cancer. His mother has had some recent health problems as well.

Jimmy Stinnett is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

Karen Hallmark

Marcia Neuhaus

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Jean Smith, Dinah Williams

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.

“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)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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