

What Not to Love

The apostle John is sometimes known as the “apostle of love.” He wrote five books in the New Testament (the Gospel of John, 1, 2 and 3 John, and Revelation). He has a lot to say in these books about God’s love for us, our love for God, and our love for one another. There is also an aspect of love about which John writes that doesn’t get as much attention, and that is what *not* to love. First, “Do not love the world” (1 John 2:15). The world that John speaks about is where “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” go unchecked. This “world” rejected Christ (John 1:10), hates Jesus (John 7:7; 15:18-19; 1 John 3:13), hates Jesus’ followers (John 15:19), and is ruled by Satan (John 12:31; 14:30; Revelation 12:19; 1 John 5:19). Love of the world and love of the Father are totally incompatible (1 John 2:15-16)! Second, we must not love darkness. “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (John 3:19-20). “Darkness” in John’s writings has to do with error and ignorance of God’s word (1 John 1:6). “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). We can’t love error and love God at the same time! Third, We must not love this life more than eternal life. “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life” (John 12:25 cf. Revelation 12:11). Because of this, we must not love the praise of men more than the praise of God (John 12:43) or to love to have preeminence over others (3 John 9). Knowing what not to love is as important as knowing what to love. May we not love as God wills! ❤️ *Brian*



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

ONE

Study

Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians



Our youth group has begun a focused study of ONE as revealed in these epistles of Paul!

“Pew Packers” will meet every Sunday evening at 5:45 to learn the Bible!



On Friday thru Sunday, September 26-28, Central Florida Bible Camp will have its annual “Live Saved” weekend for teens. If you are interested in attending, please see Brian or Jagie.



Sunday, September 14 will be our next Lads to Leaders day. Our young people are working hard on the activities and projects that are helping them learn the Bible. Thanks to all our participating children and adult volunteers!

Tuesday, September 16 will be the FSOP ladies class. They will do a character study on Ruth. Teenage girls would benefit greatly from the study.

Saturday, September 20 will be our next youth devotional and activity. It will be hosted by the Bingles at the Kenyons’ home. Weather permitting, there will be a slip-n-slide in the afternoon and a bonfire to roast marshmallows on at night. If you have questions and/or would like to help, please see Brian or Jagie or Rene. We appreciate the SFA youth!

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Randy Judd.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald.....Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

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WEB PAGES

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Love in the New Testament

Paul Clements

The English language fails to distinguish between various concepts of love when translated from the Greek language. The English word “love” fails to express variations of love with just that one word. In the Greek language, several terms are used to express various “types” of love. Not all Greek words that might be translated “love” are found in the New Testament, but the definition, meaning and use of these words can add depth to our understanding of the concept of love in the New Testament.

There are four Greek words that were in use in New Testament times that we might translate love. The first of these is *eros*. This word speaks mainly of love between the sexes, passionate love. From the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, we learn *eros* is “passionate love which desires the other for itself.” The Greeks praised the god, Eros, who was supposed to compel all in sensuous action. The word “erotic” comes from *eros*. Eros is not in the New Testament.

The second Greek word translated “love” is *storge*. This word expresses the idea of family affection. *Storge* does not appear in the New Testament, but an adjective form of this word is found in Romans 12:10 and is translated “kindly affectioned” or “tenderly affectioned.”

The noun *philia* was the most common word for love in New Testament times, though it appears only once in the New Testament in James 4:4. There it is translated “friendship.” The verb form, *phileo*, is found 25 times in the New Testament. Twenty-two of the twenty-five times it is translated “love.” This word means to “look on someone or something with affectionate regard; to cherish.” It includes physical love in some instances, but it is much more than that. It can refer to friendship love and even to include the friendship love of husband and wife. Barclay says “it is best translated cherish.” In the New Testament, this word is used in regard to love of persons and love of things. These uses suggest the idea of tender affection for someone or to cherish something.

The noun *agape* and the verb form *agapao* are words for a special kind of love. These words are found a number of times in the New Testament. The other words for love usually have to do with emotions and feeling. *Agape* and *agapao* are words for love that require a decision. In other words, it is a decided love. This love is the ultimate kind of love. It is a love of appreciation and respect. It is devotion to the object of love. It is a commanded love (Matthew 5:43-48). There, we are told to love our enemies. How? Why? Jesus says this is so we can be like God the Father.

Agape is Christian love. When we love with *agape* love, we have the other person’s best interest at heart. It seeks man’s highest good and treats man like God would treat him. “Beloved, let us love one another...” (1 John 4:7).

The Empty Tomb

Brad Harrub

Every year thousands of Muslims make a pilgrimage to Mecca to the tomb of Muhammad. Likewise, followers of Confucianism visit the grave of Confucius in Qufu, Shandong Province of China. Similarly, the Temple of the Tooth or “Dalada Maligawa” is believed to house some of the cremated ashes of Buddha. Having been buried centuries ago, the physical bodies of these religious founders are slowly turning to dust as millions journey to pay honor and respect.

Christianity is unique in that we serve a risen Savior. There are no remains to which to pilgrimage. Our Savior Jesus Christ fully conquered death. For those skeptics who vehemently cling to naturalistic causes for everything, the bodily resurrection of Jesus seems ludicrous. They laugh at the very notion. Yet, what does the evidence prove? Here’s what I intend on teaching my children about the resurrection.

Everything hinges on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, “And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen your faith is futile; you are still in your sins” (1 Corinthians 15:14-17). Simply put, if Jesus could not make it out of the tomb, we do not have any hope.

When you consider the resurrection, ask yourself first and foremost: Who moved the stone? Make no doubt about it, the individuals living at that time took ample measure to make sure the tomb was secure. The chief priests and Pharisees spoke to Pilate and said, “Sir we remember while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away” (Matthew 27:63-64). We learn from Matthew’s account that the stone in front of the tomb was sealed and a guard was assigned to watch the tomb (vs. 65-66).

Yet, even with all of this preparation, the tomb was found empty. Logic tells us that if the Jews took the body, they would have paraded it all around town denouncing the notion that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. If they really knew where the body was, it would have surfaced not long after the crucifixion. Likewise, if the disciples took the body then they would have known for certain that the resurrection was a hoax. Not only did they preach about the bodily resurrection of Jesus, but many went to their deaths proclaiming it. Who would go to his own death perpetuating a lie? A stranger off the street would not have taken it for fear of the guard and breaking the seal – besides what use would the body have been to a stranger? None of these options is logical – and yet the tomb remains empty.

I have come to regard the resurrection as probably the best “Christian evidence” material in existence. Scholars who do not believe in the Bible will concede that a man named Jesus walked the earth and was crucified. We have ancient historical writings that serve as evidence for these events. How can one explain away the empty tomb? Again, who rolled away the stone? How was it Saul – who would later become the apostle Paul – was so utterly convinced of the resurrection? Additionally, why would thousands of religious people change their day of worship from the Sabbath (Saturday – Exodus 20:8; 31:15-19) to the first day of the week (Sunday – Acts 6:7; 21:20)? Finally, why would thousands of Jews be pricked in their hearts on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) if it were merely a hoax?

Jesus conquered death. This exciting fact gives meaning to every aspect of our modern-day worship. We now have a Mediator through which we can pray. It gives meaning to the Lord’s Supper that we observe on the first day of the week. The truth that Jesus came out of the grave gives Christians the hope that we too will one day spend eternity with Him! Study the resurrection, for it will certainly strengthen your faith.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Louise Starks is not doing well. Rosalind Coleman, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson, Jacquelin Dopwell & Margaret Coone.

Relatives: Billy Harrison, (cousin of Fred Rapley) will be having spinal surgery soon. Bob Kirkland, Wayne Hendrix, Emma Rodgers, Mary & Chris Exum.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton & Louise Starks.

Others: Bill Carroll will go to rehab as soon as he can have liquids. Jeanne Frye, Frank Wood, Christina Fuessner & Bonnie Hendricks.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 14th: - Lads to Leaders will meet.

Sept. 14th: - Joey Treat will be here to give a report on the work in the Pacific Islands.

Sept. 16th: - FSOP Ladies Class in the fellowship hall. The study will be on Ruth. Teenage girls would benefit greatly from this study.

Sept. 20th: - Men's Breakfast will be at the So. Florida Avenue congregation in Lakeland at 8:00 am.

Sept. 20th: - The Youth Devotional and Activity will be hosted by the Bingles at the Kenyons' home.

Visitors

Kaylon Butler, Corley Grebing, Bryon Harrison, Mr. & Mrs. Hiram Kemp & Nadia. Selena Lopez, Sam & Bonny McDonald, Chris Morgan, Amanda & Ashley Patterson, Linda Pennington, Eunice Redmond, Dorothy Stinson.

Response

Tiffany Jackson came forward Sunday morning, saying she is having trouble breaking bad habits, and asked for the prayers of the church on her behalf.

Hither, Thither and Yon

Ron & Judy Ford will be in North Carolina for about three months. Kenny & Reba French are traveling west & will be gone 3 weeks. Pam Share is still in Texas visiting family.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Bobby Sheumaker **Table** Sam Crow
Fred Rapley **Assist** Kyle Williams

Sunday, September 14, 2014
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Stacey Paulin
Prayer Brian Kenyon

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Josh Estridge
Closing Prayer Bob Pratt

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer Steve Hunley
Greeters The Anderson Family
Att. Cards Ian Enamorado & Sebastian Rapley
Open & Close Building Phil Fife

Wed. September 17, 2014

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer John McShane

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call **Chuck Wyatt** so he can get a replacement - 859-5231*

September 21, 2014
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class David Williams
Prayer C. J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Stacey Paulin
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Closing Prayer Frank Hamby
Greeters Frank & Ginny Hamby
Att. Cards Sebastian Rapley & Antonio Martin
Open & Close Building Phil Fife

Wed. September 24, 2014

Song Leader Ken Walker
Opening Prayer Jim Turner
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Aug 17 \$4,072.55
Aug 24 \$4,454.15
Aug 31 \$4,660.00
Sep 07 \$4,967.00
Contribution Average \$4,530.95
2014 Weekly Budget \$4,256.38

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"Our Hope"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

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