

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

John McShane
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp
(386) 405-5372

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty
(740) 801-1106

SECRETARIES

Michelle Paulin / Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

WEDNESDAY

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

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

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EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

First Corinthians 13 **Love and Miraculous Gifts (Part 1)**

Brian R. Kenyon

Many sermons have been preached on love from First Corinthians 13, yet very few mention the context of this great “Love Chapter” is in the midst of Paul’s discussion of miraculous spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12-14). The church at Corinth was divided (1 Cor. 1:10-13). At least part of what fueled their division was wrong attitudes toward possessing miraculous gifts. It seems that some who had the gifts acted as if the body of Christ did not need those who did not have them. Likewise, those who did not possess the miraculous gifts thought they were not important to the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:14-21). What was the key to handling miraculous gifts without dividing the church? Love!

All “Love” Is Not the Same

Before considering the text of First Corinthians 13, let us examine some truths concerning love and the New Testament. There were four basic words for “love” in the Greek world of the apostle Paul (the following is adapted from Winters 176). First, the word *storge* referred to natural love, such as the love family members have for each other. For parents to love their children and children to love their parents is natural. In the New Testament, this word is only found as a negative (alpha privative construction), translated “unloving [without natural affection, KJV; heartless, ESV]” (Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3). Second, the word *eros* referred to passionate, sexual love. It is the word from which we get “erotic.” This Greek word is not found in the New Testament, but was present in the first century New Testament world. Third, the word *philia* referred to friendship love. It is the word from which we get “philanthropist” (one who loves mankind). This is the kind of love in which a person is emotionally involved with the object and derives pleasure and delight from it. The noun occurs only once in the New Testament, where it is translated “friend [of the world]” (Jas. 4:4). The verb occurs several times (Mt. 10:37; Jn. 5:20; Tit. 3:15, etc.). For all practical purposes, it can be used interchangeable with *agape*, with a notable exception being John 21:15-17. “Friend,” the person with this love, is also found several times (Jn. 15:14; Jas. 2:23, etc.).

Finally, the word *agape* referred to love that was not contingent on natural ties, passionate desires, or emotional involvement. Forms of this word occur more than three hundred times in the New Testament. This love carries more of a “volitional and idealistic element” than does *philia*, and it “always seeks the good of its object, even to the point of the greatest personal sacrifice” (cf. Jn. 13:34) (Kent 227). The

verb form of this love is always the one used when love is commanded (Mt. 5:44; Eph. 5:25). The KJV's translation, "charity," comes from John Wycliffe (1329-1384), who took it from *caritas*, the word Jerome used in the Latin Vulgate. Jerome used *caritas* because the kind of love the Latin meant by *amor* (the common Latin word for love) was not what the New Testament meant by *agape*. There is some value, however, in the KJV's translation "charity" because this English word expresses love in action.

The Importance of Love

Having considered the different Greek words for love, let us go back to the context of First Corinthians 13. Paul first stated that love was more important than having miraculous abilities, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ²And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing" (1 Cor. 13:1-2).

Paul specified some of the miraculous gifts he just mentioned in Chapter 12. First, love was more important than speaking "with the tongues of men and of angels." Some have taken "of angels" to refer to humanly unknowable languages that "tongue speakers" claim to speak today. However, this is best taken as a conditional statement (i.e., "even if I spoke ..."), implying that Paul did not actually speak this way (cf. 1 Cor. 14:19), but even if he did, it would not matter if it were not accompanied with *agape*. "Sounding brass [noisy gong, NAS]" is from a word that literally meant "copper, brass, bronze," and was reminiscent of "the Copper Bowl of Dodona, at the oracle of Dodona, that was said to 'sound' ... all day long and therefore was used to describe a person who talked incessantly" (Rogers and Rogers 379). Next, love was more important than the "gift of prophecy" and miraculous understanding. "Mysteries" refers to something that was formerly unknown, but now (at the time of writing) was known, being miraculously revealed (cf. 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 3:1-7). Finally, love was more important than miraculous faith. It is possible for a person to have faith, or at least think he has faith, and still not be saved (cf. Mt. 7:21-23). Judas, for example, had the ability to work miracles (cf. Mk. 3:14-19), but that did not guarantee his salvation. Could he have used his miraculous ability, like some of the Corinthians, without love?

Paul then stated that love was more important than sacrificing one's possessions and life: "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing" (1 Cor. 13:3). The word "give [bestow, KJV]" is from a word that depicts one who has given all his goods in small portions to a large number of people (Rogers and Rogers 379). "Give my body to be burned" is a reference to sacrificing one's physical life, which is reminiscent of Daniel 3:28, though the absence of love certainly would not apply to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Conclusion

Paul's declaration of the importance of love, even over miraculous powers and personal sacrifice, served at least two purposes. First, it set up the remainder of the discussion on the characteristics and duration of love. Second, and perhaps more important to the overall context, it showed that love must be allowed to regulate their use of miraculous gifts. If they would receive the gifts in love and use them in love to build up the church (which is what Chapter 14 is about), they would not have the division over miraculous spiritual gifts. Though the age of miraculous gifts has ceased (1 Cor. 13:8-13), love must still regulate all that we do (cf. Mt. 22:37-40). Do we love enough to seek God's will, obey it, and be united with Him and His people? *AE Brian*

Works Cited

Kent, Homer, Jr. *Light in the Darkness: Studies in the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1974.

Rogers, Cleon L., Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers III. *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.

Winters, Howard. *Commentary on First Corinthians: Practical and Explanatory*. Greenville, SC: Carolina Christian, 1987.

*By this all will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another. John 13:35*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Wadi Khoury will have back surgery on July 24nd at the VA hospital in Tampa. Ron Ford, Ray Naschick, Faith West, Jim Turner, Sharon Washington, and Margaret Coone.

Shut In Members: Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Bob McAnally, Eunice Powell, (grandmother of Stacey and Rene') Larry Laster (Toney Wilson's brother), Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr. (Neil Entwistle's father), Peggy Nabors and James and Ellen Shearer (Wayne Shearer's parents), and Maci Teagarden (friend of Dottie Fife's sister's, 10 month old baby). We are thankful that former member Sam Crow is doing well following cancer treatment.

Upcoming Events

Saturday July 27th: VBS at the Kissimmee church of Christ from 10:00 a.m-1:00 p.m. Classes for all ages.

July 28th - July 31st: VBS at Avon Park church of Christ from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 3rd: Youth Group devo and fellowship at the Daugherty's home at 4:00 p.m. Dinner will be served, but please bring snacks and/or desserts. A head-count is needed by July 31st. Be sure to add your name to the list on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

Sunday, August 4th: Fellowship In-Service after evening services.

Sunday, August 11th: Youth group will bring communion with a devo to our shut-ins immediately after morning service.

Sunday, August 17th: Men's breakfast at Jackson Ave. church of Christ in Bartow

Thank You

Dear church family, Thank you so much for all the cards, calls, visits, and food, but most of all, your prayers. I am so blessed to be part of such a loving family. Thank you, Linda McShane

I wish to thank those in the congregation for their concern, prayers, and calls during my hospitalization this week. I covet your continued prayers.

Jim Edmonson

Placed Membership

Heather Glass recently met with our elders and has placed membership. Let us welcome her.

Communion to shut-ins

July 28	Van Allen
August 4	Parramore
August 11	Youth group
August 18	volunteer needed

Visitors

Mary Moore, Jeff Childers, Nigel St. Bernard, Allen & Rachel Grimes, Larry Laster & Tawana Burkett, Jeanne Fitzpatrick, Alexis Dunn, Sue Johnson.

Watch . . .



In Search of the Lord's Way

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

Designated Elder During Services - Bobby Sheumaker
Open/Close Building - Kenny French

Bobby Sheumaker..... **Table** Wayne Shearer
Phil Fife **Assist** Ken Walker

Sunday, July 28, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Phil Fife
Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Faneuf
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Wadi Khoury
Greeters..... McShane/Faneuf
Cards..... Caelen/Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Tim Croson
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Bingle

Wednesday, July 31, 2019

Song Leader..... Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer..... John McShane
Closing Prayer..... David Anderson

July Clean-up Jimmy Sweeney's team (E-K)

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911

Sunday, August 4, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Ken Walker
Prayer..... Wayne Shearer

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney
Announcements..... Matt Wilcutt
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Tim Croson
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker
Greeters..... Pratt/Fife
Cards..... Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Casey Paulin

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

Song Leader..... Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 30	\$6504.46
July 07	\$5,642.97
July 14	\$6,846.00
July 21	\$5,946.63
Contribution Average	\$6,500.92

Member Spotlight
Stephanie Kenyon



Stephanie was born in Benton, Kentucky, and also lived in Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Georgia. As a child, she wanted to be a teacher and a mom. Her first job was at Aurora BBQ as cook and waitress. She is currently a stay-at-home mom. In her free time, she likes studying the Bible, spending time with family, reading, and camping. Her most satisfying accomplishments are becoming and remaining a Christian. The best advice she's been given is "Philippians 4:8; 1 Corinthians 16:14; Proverbs 17:28." She and her husband, Rick, have 2 children.

Member Spotlight
Matthew Willcut



Matthew was born in Cookeville, Tennessee. and his dad is a Gospel preacher. As a child, he wanted to be a police officer. His first job was with Winn Dixie. He is currently a district sales manager at Frito Lay. He lived in Guyana and has visited Mexico and several Caribbean places. He likes sweet tea. In his free time, he likes to fish, golf, and watch football. His most satisfying accomplishment is rearing his three boys. The best advice he's been given is "Don't ask someone to do something, if you wouldn't do it yourself." He and his wife, Shannon, have 3 sons.



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1807 South Florida Avenue
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

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



MISSION TRIP PERU

Pray for our young people and their chaperones as they are evangelizing in Haucho, Peru. Lord willing, they will return July 27. May God bless the planting and watering of Gospel seed!

THINK SOULS! Let's invite our family, neighbors, and friends to Bible classes, church services and/or one-on-one personal Bible studies.



"Be filled with the Spirit . . . submitting to one another in the fear of God" Eph. 5:18-21

Please **DO NOT PARK** between the trees on the right and the bushes on the left shown in the foreground of this picture. It blocks access to the grass lot.



God's Plan of Salvation

- Hear God's word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)**
- Believe in Jesus as God's Son (Jn. 8:24)**
- Repent of Past Sins (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)**
- Confess Faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10)**
- Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins (Acts 2:38)**
- Live Faithfully by God's Word (Rom. 12:1-2)**

Save The Date

Oct. 5, SFA Ladies Day!