


NAMPA BIBLE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Love - By Josh Norris

Significant confusion often surfaces when Christians think of love. Most of us were brought up in a culture where love is daily twisted into a blur of sensuality, materialism and conditional affection. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have Christian upbringings may have a more accurate picture of love, but the majority of believers still find their definition of love closely tied to the world's.

What, then, is love? Love is ultimately defined by a sovereign God in His active, joyful, sacrificial, good will toward sinners. Nothing is more humbling than to think that the one and only God; Creator of all things; with limitless power and sovereignty; whose plans can never be improved upon, even in the smallest degree, would stoop to sacrificially love those who have spit in His face in rebellion. God would do all this so that our joy would be complete in Him thus bringing Him more glory. The only appropriate response to such love is reciprocal love toward God and outward love toward our fellow man.

As hard as we try to muddy it, outward love toward our fellow man is easily understood. God's expectation of man is that we love just as He loved us. (John 13:34-35) This kind of love means, again, an active, joyful, sacrificial good will towards others. Practically speaking it means being patient and kind, not jealous, boastful, proud, rude. It means not demanding your own way, not being irritable, and not keeping a record of being wronged. It means not being happy about injustice, but bearing all things, and never losing faith. It means always being hopeful and enduring through every circumstance. (1 Cor 13:4-7)

One point of contention among many Christians is whether love is a feeling or an action. The truth is that it's both. While C.S. Lewis was right when he said "Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained", actions done consistently without feeling likely betrays a

deeper problem. If we always love from duty, all the while feeling disgusted or indifferent toward those we are 'loving', then our heart betrays our pride and self-idolatry. We are no better than others and for a Christian to have a consistent lack of feelings should probably frighten us. After all, C.S. Lewis also said "Everyone feels benevolent if nothing happens to be annoying him at the moment." That said, we still must realize that sacrificial love means we must love even when we don't feel like it. The mature disciple of Christ will learn to find joy in seeing God glorified and others satisfied by their love.

How we love God is brutally simple. The apostle John distilled love for God into a pair of sentences when he said "*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.*" (1 John 5:2-3) and "*And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*" (1 John 4:21) So, in essence there are two ways to love God: obeying His commands with joy and loving others. Both ways are necessary and both must be done without burden to be glorifying to Him.

When we examine ourselves in light of God's sacrificial love we can hardly justify our own selfishness. Our love for others must be focused on an attitude of sacrificial selflessness seen in Philippians 2:3: "*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.*" If we truly focus on regarding others as more important than ourselves, our unity and love will flourish and God will receive the glory.

Zephaniah 3:17

For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.

Current Calendar Events....

Feb 1st thru 8th

3rd - Youth Group Super Bowl Party
 3rd - Creative Homemaking
 4th - Cecelia Book's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 5th - Janice Denney's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 6th - Gordon Goldsmith's Home Group
 7th - Cindy Goldsmith's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 7th - Kim Arnold's Ladies I Peter Bible Study

Feb 9th thru 15th

9th - Awana Bible Quizzing
 10th - Awana President's Night
 11th - Cecelia Book's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 12th - Janice Denney's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 12th - Josh Norris' Home Group
 13th - Jim Rickwa's Home Group
 14th - Cindy Goldsmith's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 14th - Kim Arnold's Ladies I Peter Bible Study

Feb 16th thru 22nd

16th - 3rd Annual Valentine's Banquet
 17th - Awana Valentine Candy Hunt
 18th - Cecelia Book's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 19th - Janice Denney's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 21st - Cindy Goldsmith's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 21st - Kim Arnold's Ladies I Peter Bible Study

Feb 23rd thru 29th

24th - Awana Inflatable Fun Night
 24th - Youth Group Game Night
 25th - Cecelia Book's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 26th - Janice Denney's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 28th - Cindy Goldsmith's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 28th - Kim Arnold's Ladies I Peter Bible Study
 28th - Creative Homemaking

• For more details on any of the calendar events please visit www.nampabible.org/calendar

Ministry Spotlight: Creative Homemaking

We meet twice a month for a time of fellowship, encouragement and learning. Our hope is that we can come together as women of God to glean from one another as we improve our homemaking skills and grow in Christ. We truly desire to become Proverbs 31 women. This is also a great outreach opportunity for women in our community. PLEASE invite your friends and neighbors, especially those who do not know the Lord.

If you would like to contribute any ideas, time or talent in this area, please contact Janie Glover at 463-9413 or e-mail her at jglover@cableone.net You all have gifts!

Upcoming events:

February 28th Wardrobe Basics by Tibbie Iles
 March 6th Sauces by Janie Glover
 March 27th Finances Made Simple (teacher to be announced soon!)
 April 10th Soups by Janie Glover
 April 24th Vegetable and Herb Gardening by Juanita Sinclair
 May 8th Using Spices and Herbs by Janie Glover
 May 29th Make Your Own Lightweight Planters by Meg Eichelberger
 June 12th Perfect Salads and Dressings by Janie and others.... ;o)
 June 26th BBQ Basics by Janie Glover

Please join us for one, two or ALL of the classes! Locations will be announced each month.

Quote to live by

"Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained." – CS Lewis

Pray For...

- A greater understanding of God and His great love for us.
- A growing love for those around us.

Did You Know....

- We moved! Directions to the new location can be found at www.nampabible.org/moving
- You can be involved in the newsletter! Email webmaster@nampabible.org or talk to Josh Norris to get involved.

Nampa Bible Church

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