

Remember in Prayer:

The Sick:

Dennis Blanton is improving at home as he continues with therapy after a stroke. He is gaining strength and mobility.

Burton Brown, Betty's brother, continues to have some side effects of the radiation treatment for cancer that has metastasized to his brain.

Pansy Hensley was hospitalized last week after she fell and broke her arm. She is currently in Room 217, HQM of Nashville on McCampbell Ave.

Continue to remember others recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness including: **Xenna Gooch, Ronald Miller, Lauren Mack (granddaughter of Betty Travis), Karen Shelton, Carolyn Lowder and Lucy Karnes (Martha's sister).**

News & Notes:

--**Group 1** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.



--**Caleb Thomas Graves** was born last Thursday. He weighed 9 lbs, 3 oz. & was 22 1/2 inches long. Congratulations to Brandon, Teresa & Nathan!

Speaking of Churches

1. What church was neither hot or cold? Rev. 3:15-16
2. What church began in the home of Lydia, the seller of purple? Acts 16:15,40
3. At what church was Paul accused of turning the world upside down? Acts 17:6
4. What church had two bickering women named Euodia and Syntyche? Philippians 4:1-3
5. In what church did Paul raise up Eutychus who had fallen to his death out of a window? Acts 20:7-12
6. What church was Silas from? Acts 13:34
7. At what church were believers first called Christians? Acts 11:26
8. What church had a false prophetess named Jezebel as a member? Rev. 2:18-29
9. What church sent members to accompany Paul all the way to Athens? Acts 17:10-15

ELDERS: Doug Driver
Johnny Felker
DEACONS: Ralph Brown
Mark Claypool



Service Times

SUNDAY
Bible Study—9:00 am
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ
423 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 883-3118

*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24*

June 7, 2009

Love Without Hypocrisy

Comedian Mel Brooks once said, "Tragedy is when I cut my finger; comedy is when you fall into an open sewer and die." Humans tend to care much more about what happens to them than about what happens to others. In fact, as Brooks' joke illustrates, we tend to be much more concerned about small events in our own lives (or the lives of those close to us) than we are about truly tragic events in the lives of others.

Jesus changes our perspective in this matter. From Him we learn to care more about others than we do about ourselves. He showed us that love sacrifices itself for the well-being of others. God's word challenges those of us who are Christians to be Christ-like in this very way. *"Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, 'The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me'"* (Romans 15:2-3).

To love one another like Jesus loved us requires that our love be without hypocrisy. Romans 12:9 simply commands, *"Let love be without hypocrisy."* Hypocrisy is play acting. Love that is pretended, fake or put-on is not really concerned for others. *"Sincere love of the brethren"* means that we *"love one another fervently with a pure heart"* (1 Peter 1:22).

How can a person tell if the love they have is genuine? Hypocritical love manifests itself in a number of ways. If you want to know whether you love like Jesus or like a hypocrite, ask yourself the following questions:

- **Do I love in deed, not just in word?** Just saying that we love others may make both them and us feel better, but it is not all there is to real love. Expressions of concern for the poor, the sick and the shut-in are nice, but our love is fake if we do nothing to help. "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18). If, when we're sick or experience tragedy we expect fellow Christians to be there for us, we should be there for them when they are in need.

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The Fruit of Love



...in your faith supply ... Love. (2 Pet. 1:5-7).

The Importance of Love (Its necessity)

But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the _____ of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13)

Therefore be imitators of _____, as beloved children; and walk in love... (Eph. 5:1-2)

And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect _____ of unity. (Col. 3:14)

...through love _____ one another. (Gal. 5:13)

... but speaking the _____ in love ... (Eph. 4:15)

Let all that you do be done in _____. (1 Cor. 16:14)

The Meaning of Love (Its characteristics)

God is the perfect illustration of "agape" (1 Jn. 4:8; Jn. 3:16; Eph. 2:4-7; Rom. 5:8; Jn. 15:13). His love is: 1) _____; 2) _____; 3) _____; 4) _____; 5) _____.

The Demonstration of love (Its deeds)

Our love for God is demonstrated by keeping His _____ (Jn. 14:15; 21, 23-24; Jn. 15:10)

If you love Me, you will _____ My commandments. (Jn. 14:15).

Our love for our fellowman is demonstrated in _____ (Lk. 6:27-38)

Make a list of the deeds of love: _____

Let us remember the motivation Peter gave to practice these things: ...for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. (2 Pet. 1:10-11)

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• **Do I show partiality?** 1 Corinthians 12:25 explains that in the body of Christ "the members should have the same care for one another." Notice, we are to have the "same care" for one another. This means that I'm not to care more about one than the other. 1 Timothy 5:21 commands us to do "nothing with partiality." But too often church members care much more about what happens to themselves or their families than about what others are going through. We value our own opinions and preferences, and those of those close to us, above those of everyone else. Such shows partiality. It is not the kind of love Jesus had. Philippians 2:4 says, "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." The "wisdom that is from above" is "without partiality and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17).

• **Is my love sacrificial?** If we're not giving something up for our brethren, our love is not like Christ's, and it is hypocritical. "Hereby know we love, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16).

"How often love fades like the morning mist....

when self is threatened in any way

when another doesn't measure up to expectations

when a brother or sister has a need that will require expense or inconvenience from others

when a heart is lifted up by self importance and others do not respond as self requires." (Paul Frey)

Love that is without hypocrisy won't fade. Jesus loved us when He was threatened, when we didn't measure up to expectations and when we inconvenienced Him. And although He is the most important Being in the world, and we are sinners made of dust, He "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:7-8). That's love. That's how I want to love. Don't you?

-- Steve Klein