

MARKET STREET



"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)

MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
514 West Market Street
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume IX

May 21, 2017

No. 21

Love: The Essence of Christianity

Mary Mayberry

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblenz..... (256) 232-3312
Joel Hamm..... (256) 278-1977
Larry Mitchell..... (256) 230-0185
Russ Wulfekuhl..... (256) 683-9396

Evangelist

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Love is a misunderstood and misused word, partly because in our language it is a "catch-all" expression. It is used to describe everything from the lofty nature of God to illicit and even perverted sexuality. The Greek language was much more precise. It had a number of words to describe the various types of love: Eros is the Greek word for sexual love. Storge is the Greek word which describes the natural affection within a family. Phileo is the love of emotion, and has to do with those warm feelings that arise within us in response to the good qualities of another. We have a special affection and friendship for those we are close to. This love is directed toward our family, friends and brethren. Agape is the highest form of love. It is not simply an emotion which arises unbidden in our hearts, but it is a principle by which we live. It involves seeking the highest good of another. Such love is to be directed toward God, as well as all mankind.

Agape love is a multifaceted jewel. This is demonstrated by the discussion of its qualities in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. It causes us to be patient with others, and not quickly retaliate against their shortcomings. Love results in active kindness. It causes us to shun evil attitudes such as resentment and envy. Love doesn't allow us to become puffed up with pride; nor does it act in a boastful, rude, or unbecoming way. Instead, we treat others in a courteous and respectful manner. Love is not self-seeking. Selfishness is to be laid aside, and replaced with genuine consideration for the needs of others. Love doesn't allow us to become easily angered. If we truly love others, we will not keep a running ledger of their mistakes. Love produces a genuine morality. Whereas the world takes pleasure in sin, he who practices biblical love delights in the truth. Love is steadfast: it bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. Agape is the summation of godly conduct.

The primary focus of our love is the God of heaven. We are to love Him with all our heart, soul and mind (Matthew 22:37-38). How does this love control our actions? It causes us to realize that sin brings shame and dishonor upon His name. If we love God, we will live in such a way as to glorify Him. We show our love for God by keeping His commandments (John 14:15).

We should express this love toward fellow Christians. It leads us to edify and encourage our brethren. Unfortunately, petty differences sometimes arise and we lose sight of the principle of love. Then we “bite and devour one another” (Galatians 5:15). We should “consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24, NASV). This should be our constant aim.

Love should be practiced at home (Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4). Husbands and wives claim to love each other, but sometimes take each other for granted and even treat one another with contempt. When this happens, the home becomes a place of conflict. Love should be enshrined in the home. Its expression should go far beyond occasionally mumbling a few words. Partners in marriage should be positive influences on each other, realizing that they will greatly affect the destiny of the other.

We should love those who are lost in sin. Our hope of salvation is based on God’s love for us (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). We should be willing to share the blessings of Christianity with others. Sometimes, we fail to teach others the truth for fear of hurting their feelings or losing their friendship. A true concern for their eternal welfare will overcome such hesitation.

Finally, the Bible tells us to love our enemies. We may not always appreciate their actions, and their sinful ways may keep us from having a close emotional attachment to them. However, remember that agape is not simply an emotion. Even toward our enemies, we should conduct ourselves in a way that seeks their highest good. We show love by not returning evil for evil, but rather by doing good (Romans 12:17–20). By conducting ourselves as Christians in such circumstances, we show the reality of our faith, and will perhaps lead them to the Lord. This should be our aim in the first place.

Acting in love should be the basis of all our dealings with God and man. This is the essence of Christianity.

~via *Christiantiy Magazine*; Vol. 1 No. 10; October 1984.

Bible Study



Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Four Ways to Lose Your Faith

Tim Jennings

A friend in the church asked, “How can I pray for you this year?” I told her, “Please pray for those I have the opportunity to share the gospel with. Pray that they may grow in faith and be active in their walk with Christ.” I asked for this prayer because too many people find the joy of salvation, only to lose their faith before it grows to maturity. Each time it happens it breaks my heart.

Betty lived in the neighborhood. She had a sinful background and was living with a man. She knew something needed to change. The gospel gave her life meaning and joy. We studied the Bible every week. She enjoyed the worship of the church and started caring for her new spiritual family. I can still remember how she smiled the day she was baptized into Christ.

Then something happened. Her interest in Bible study decreased. She found excuses for missing worship, and she drifted away from her new friends in the faith. Several of us reached out to draw her back to Christ. She responded for a few weeks, but then would drift away again.

Those who share their faith with others know this story is not unique. No one becomes a disciple expecting to fail, but many do. I’m tired of seeing it happen. Please consider some of the ways I’ve seen people lose their faith. If you see these habits form in your life or in someone you love, please do something about it. A soul is too precious to waste.

Isolate yourself from your spiritual family. The front of our new church building is covered with white stone. During the construction I stopped by to check on the progress. When I arrived I saw an expensive SUV parked in the grass. A woman was filling up the back of her SUV with stones that were lying in a pile on the ground. I asked her, “What are you doing?” She explained, “I’m going to use these stones to border my garden.” I motioned toward the building and said, “We need those stones to finish our wall.” She indignantly responded, “Do you mean I can’t have these?” “No ma’am, we need these stones.” In a huff she moved toward her car to unload them. But, as soon as I turned away, she jumped in her car, sped off across the lawn, jumped the curb and raced down the street with a car full of stones.

Later, as I reflected on this bizarre event, it occurred to me the thief did not take the stones that were mor-

tared to one another on the wall. It was easier for her to steal the stones that were just lying in a pile. In the same way, it is difficult for the devil to snatch away a believer who is devoted to the fellowship. It is that soul that is disconnected from other believers who is easily stolen away (John 10:1-10).

The answer to this problem is not simply attendance at an assembly. The mortar that binds believers together is service. You love others as Christ loves you and it drives you to do good works. The resulting fellowship creates a bond that is difficult to break (Heb. 10:23-25).

Don't share your struggles with anyone. Every believer struggles with personal sin and failure. All of us have questions about the character of God, the nature of salvation, and the function of church. Some share their concerns, but many hide them. Perhaps it's pride, shame, or the unapproachableness of a friend that causes us to bottle up our struggles. We may look like disciples on the outside but our hidden problems threaten to shatter our faith.

If we only knew! Our struggles are not unique. We are not alone. God knows and is willing to forgive, and fellow believers care and are willing to talk. So, have the courage to confess and to ask for help. Your soul is worth it (James 5:16; Psalm 73:15-17; Acts 18:26).

Don't fill your life with godly thoughts. If you only ate a snack once a week you would quickly die. This is what happens to some believers. Their spiritual diet is limited to a Sunday snack.

The irony is that new believers want more about God, but spiritual truths are like a foreign language to them. At first, sermons seem strange, reading the Bible is confusing, and prayer is uncomfortable. Some give up and plug back in to worldly interests.

These dear ones need patience. They need to be told that faith takes diligence. Growth is the result of godly habits. Otherwise the message of the gospel is easily lost in the pursuits of modern life. Our culture spews out skepticism and cynicism about godliness, and it engulfs righteousness beneath a sea of pleasures. Yet, there is no substitute for the daily discipline of prayer and Bible reading. When it is embraced the beautiful language of heaven begins to redefine our lives.

Be demoralized by weak and sinful Christians. Lisa said, "I just love this church because the people are so great!" I quickly told this new believer, "Don't be deceived. We are not perfect. We are only forgiven sinners. Love God!" A few weeks later after an encounter

with a sorry saint Lisa said, "Thanks for preparing me."

The love of the church might initially draw someone to Christ, but a person must then learn to love Christ even when believers are unloving (John 13:34-35). Ultimately, our faith must be in a God, not people. When we encounter sinful believers, it is not time to run. It is time to love them with the same patience and sacrifice Jesus expresses toward us. We must all remember that God will hold us accountable for how our attitudes and actions impact others (Matthew 18:5-6).

There are many other reasons why people lose their faith. These are enough to help you care more deeply about the faith of others and to strengthen your own.

I told you about Betty. I heard the other day she died. Cancer got her.

~via *Equipping The Saints*; Conroe, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Jackie Cox	Patsy Thomas
Doris Lovell	Cindy Glass
Don Osborne	Tracy Hodges
Linda Jones	Ashley Sims
Sara Ogles	Shaun Carruth
Ann Bush	Everette "Bud" Dollar
Wayne Gooch	Shelly Scruggs

Updates:

Bettye Harrison had a heart catherization done this past Tuesday morning in Huntsville and received a good report... **Margaret Carter** hurt her back on Wednesday... **Steve Usery** had oral surgery on Thursday.

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Gayle Ball
Reba Byram	Irene Inman
Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Priscilla Tucker	Ella Melvin
Daniel Ogles	Diane Kilpatrick
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Jenny Pickens
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Bobby McLemore
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier

Eli Williams Brittany Bates Carter

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Rick McLemore; Huntsville Hospital – rm. 734
Bobby McLemore; Huntsville Hospital – rm. 1751
Mot Beasley; River City Health & Rehab. – Decatur
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61 Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B Dorothy Draper, rm. 73
Oneal Martin, rm. 81 Joyce Martin, rm. 73
Mattye Murray, rm. 2 Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Mable Crafts, rm. 39 Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert Beasley, at Morningside, Decatur
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Wynell Casteel, at home
Marjorie Dunnivant, at Brookdale Farms, Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle
Essie Hardison, at home
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home
William Thomas, at home

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Mike Ogles* and *all the family* in the passing of his aunt, *Delorise Smith*, this past Thursday. Her visitation will be tonight from 6:00 to 8:00 and the funeral is Monday afternoon at 2:00 at Limestone Chapel.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Bradleys: Steve and Marilyn* are in Texas with family... *Tyler Cox* has been in California, Oregon and Washington this past week... *Landon Adams* has been in Detroit, Michigan this week with his work... *Jim Whitt* has been in Oklahoma this week with his work.

GRADUATES HONORED: This afternoon there will be a reception at the *The Clubhouse at Deer Trail* on West Market Street to honor the seniors from Market Street, *Griffin Holt and Austin Hobson*. I hope that everyone can come and help to encourage these two young men on their accomplishments.

WORK GROUPS: **Work Group Two** will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of May 14th

Sunday:	Bible Classes	129
	Morning Worship	182
	Evening Worship	110
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	100

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 21st:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Tyler Cox
Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Kenneth Smith
Assisting Steve Usery
Serving David Terry Ashton Gatlin
..... Landon Adams..... Marvin Putman
Closing Prayer Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader Griffin Holt
Prayer..... Harvey Nixon
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 21st:

Ushers..... Keith Hinkle/Marcus Morris
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, May 24th:

Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
Bible Reading Colossians 2:18-29
..... Dan Reed
Prayer..... Tommy Coblenz
Invitation Steve Usery
Closing Prayer Mike Ogles

Sunday, May 28th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer..... Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Mike Ogles
Assisting Tommy Coblenz
Serving Matthew Vaughn..... Terry Andrews
..... Kenneth Adams..... Danny Holt
Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Ashton Gatlin
Prayer..... Landon Adams
Preaching..... Song Service
Lord's Supper Mike Ogles
Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 28th:

Ushers..... Steve Usery/Larry Mitchell
Work Sound System..... Nathaniel Adams