

one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.” In verses like this, love is the central theme. Love is what makes the difference. Love is what identifies a person as a follower and student of Jesus. Love is the first and greatest commandment. Even the second commandment is about love. Love is the answer.

But what is love? Unfortunately we’ve redefined love in our culture to mean a tolerance of bad behavior. In our day, you aren’t a loving person unless you approve all the choices of another. To disagree or question is now interpreted as hatred. That means we’ve completely reworked our definitions of both love and hate. I still believe that love is the answer. I know you do too. But the love that works to solve the world’s problems is the kind of love defined in Scripture and displayed by God. Modern definitions have done nothing but divide people against each other. Our so-called “love” today has been anything but real love.

I’m always grateful to see people quoting Scripture to address modern issues. When we do use the Bible like this, we are saying we believe the Bible is from God and that the Bible is culturally transcendent. We are saying that God is still speaking to us through this beautiful book and that what He has to say is the final authority on every matter. This must be our attitude and approach to everything. However, quoting Scripture does us no good if we aren’t willing to apply what it says. We must be courageous enough to both “do and teach” the will of God (Acts 1:1). So it’s a wonderful thing that we quote verses about love. We simply must be willing to act accordingly. What is love? What does it mean to love my neighbor? What does it look like when I do that? Why is love for God first and foremost? Until we can understand and apply answers to these types of questions, not a single issue will ever really be solved. This world isn’t going to have the light of Christianity if Christians aren’t sure how the light works (Matt. 5:13-16).

In the next few articles, we are going to explore the Bible doctrine of love. Our world clearly has missed the mark and it has no chance of getting it right until it resonates first from the house of God. This is because we are the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15). The fact that love is a difficult choice seems very clear from Scripture. That means there is a commitment that comes with the definition. Real love is not just lip service (1 John 3:18). Real love is action. Real love is following God wherever He leads. I pray we have the courage to love the world and each other like God does.

More next week....

NORTH HAMILTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



**8310 Dayton Pike, PO Box 517
Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379
Telephone: 842-1044**

www.northhamiltonchurchofchrist.com

June 28, 2020

Elders

Willard Elsea 240-9539
Art Greer 902-6295
Joel Laney 322-7828

Telephone

Deacons

Joe Anderson Keith Herron
Brad Jones Tommy Qualls
Chris Randolph Curt Stewart
Justin Tripp Toby Ward

Minister

David B. Smith 667-1987

“What Is Love?” (Part 1) David B. Smith

Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the prophets” (Matt. 22:36-40).

I’ve been hearing these verses frequently over the last few weeks. It’s the response many have been making to the displays of hate we are seeing play out before our eyes. Other verses have been used as well. John 13:34-35 is one. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love

Prayer List

James Anderson	Danny Curvin	Judy Lusk
Patricia Anthony	Tommie Grandfield	Tony Miller
Jim Bethune	Bill Greer	Lexi Owens
Nancy Birch	Fred Hafley	Carlos Shannon
Mike Bouldin	Kathy Hamilton	Janice Smith
Susie Hargis	Bessie Smithson	Isaac Cooper
Grayson Ledbetter	Diane Stacy	Loretta Leffew
John Webster		

Our Sick and Recovering

- **Darryl Meeks** had outpatient back surgery on Thursday which appears to have been successful in relieving the extreme back pain he has experienced.
- **James Isom**, Sue Wright's dad, will undergo a brain scan on Monday, attempting to determine the cause of some recent issues. Sue asks that we pray for good results.

Announcements

Attendance: Last week's attendance for the combined services was 146. With the uptick in the number of Covid-19 detected, there remains several of our North Hamilton family that do not feel comfortable being in a crowd due to underlying health issues, and this is perfectly understandable. Continue to pray for the day when we can resume our normal services with no concerns about the Corona virus.

Wednesday Evenings: This is just a reminder that David is on YouTube and Facebook each Wednesday evening at six with a weekly lesson on the nature of God.

Reminders: Our online worship service is still being posted to Facebook and YouTube each Sunday morning and, for those who wish to do so, contributions can still be made using Venmo: NorthHamilton-ChurchOfChrist or can be mailed to P O Box 517, Soddy-Daisy, TN 37384

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

JUNE

28 – Barbara Benford, Karl Bolus,
Kathy Castleberry, Kathy Douglas
29 – Michael Jackson
30 Loretta Leffew,
Becky Actkinson

JULY

2 – Sue Swafford
3 – Angie Frazier, Darryl Meeks
9 – Ginger Wilson, Patricia Farmer
10 – Sadie Randolph
12 – Darlene Doak
16 – David Smith
17 – Alisha Lowman, Curt Stewart, George Bell
18 – Doug Rector
19 – Phyllis Wells, Savannah Qualls, Bobby Haynes
20 – Bob Newsom
21 – Norma Griffith
28 – Debbie Cooper
30 – David Walker
31 – Marilyn Everett

Anniversaries

JUNE

29 – Ken & Ginger Wilson

JULY

7 – Justin & Beth Tripp
12 – Millis & Shirley Jackson
17 – John & Judy Germ
26 – Doug & Sue Wright, Joe & Erica Anderson
28 – Kenny & Cindy Rose