

LoThe d OuRighTeousness

How is your love life?

Elder Charles Moore



it remind us of a love we cannot resist - God's love.

You probably already know that loving people isn't

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Someone once said that if you ever want to know the truth about something then you should ask children. The following is what love means to some children and what they think love is.

Glenn, age 7 - "If falling in love is anything like learning how to spell, I don't want to do it. It takes too long." (He's right, loving people takes a long time. It takes a lifetime.)

Kenny, age 7 - "It gives me a headache to think about that stuff. I'm just a kid. I don't need that kind of trouble".

Regina, age 10 - "I'm not rushing into love. I'm finding fourth grade hard enough".

Dave, age 8 - "Love will find you, even if you are trying to hide from it. I've been trying to hide from it since I was five, but the girls keep finding me". Manuel, age 8 - "I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be painful".

If you love, there will be pain. So I'll ask you the question, "How is your love life?" Paul is clear your love life is supposed to be greater than your spirituality. **1**

Corinthians 13:1: If I speak in the tongues of men and of

angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Your love life is supposed to look like this: **1 Corinthians 13:4, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails."**

This paragraph sets a standard that no one can meet, no one that is except Jesus. Rather than let this scripture remind us of a love we cannot produce, let

easy. The vow breakers, truth benders, the money grubbers and backstabbers we meet, work with, and marry. How do we love someone who is hard to love? What's our typical strategy for treating a troubled relationship? Try harder. So we try. Teeth clenched. Jaw firm.

Conventional wisdom says that a lack of love implies a lack of effort, so we dig deeper, strain more. We're going to love if it kills us! And it may do just that. **1 John 4: 9: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

Notice something in this passage. The Apostle John spends three sentences telling us how much God loves us. Then he takes just one sentence to say that since God loves us, we ought to love others. It's a 3 to 1 ratio of

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where our energy should be if we're to love effectively. God never tells us to love without telling us we are loved and He even gives us the love which He wants us to lavish on the world for Him. **Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.** When we reach for the sponge that we use to wipe off the counter, the first thing we do is get the sponge wet, because the crispy, crusty hard and brittle sponge can't be used for anything until we get it wet. People come with crusty and hard hearts. Take that hard heart and try to love somebody with that heart - it is impossible. We need to try to add the moisture of God's love, to be immersed into God's grace and forgiveness. And then, that heart changes. It becomes moist and useable and it really becomes a tool that God can use to love others.

Jerome, the Church historian, relates of the Apostle John that, when he became old he used to go among the churches everywhere repeating the words, "Little children, love one another." His disciples, wearied by the constant repetition, asked him why he always said this, "Because," he replied, "it is the Lord's commandment; and if it only be fulfilled, it is enough." How? By receiving God's love, relying on God's love, living God's love. We know that we have to love more like Jesus but it is hard. Jesus gave us an example to follow. **1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

Love is greater than Spirituality so don't tell me how much money you give or how much you pray or how many times you read through the Bible in a year or how often you go on mission trips. Tell me how much you love. Better yet show me, because that is what Jesus has told us to do.

In the coming months I'm going to be talking about the "one anothers" in the Bible. The commands of Scripture on how we are supposed to love one another, not just the believers in our local churches but believers of all kinds, everywhere. Some examples of Scripture of how we show our love is by: laying down our lives for one another (1 John 3:16) serving one another (Gal. 5:13), praying for one another (James 5:16), confessing our faults to one another (James 5:16), exhorting one another (Heb. 3:13), admonishing one another (Rom. 15:14), building one another up (1 Thess. 5:11), comforting one another (2 Cor. 1:3-6), forbearing one another (Col. 3:13), bearing one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2), forgiving one another (Eph. 4:32, provoking one another to love and good deeds, (Heb. 10:24),

I hope you agree that this will give us much to chew on but also much to apply in our lives.

Cyberspace News

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The month of February has flown by—busyness and being a couple days short helped its speed I guess.

The first weekend was our winter retreat so we all had a warm time inside and out. No zero temps this year. Roy and Bennie Gee arrived from California on Thursday and could not believe the weather. The whole time they were here they had no worries about bad weather. Sonya Pease flew in from New York as usual. We were happy to have Laurie Eckles come and stay overnight this year. The Charles family up in the Howell area was well-represented also.

The retreat was exciting this year because we got to visit and eat non-stop and then it was special because we got to honor one of the founding families of our church, David and Ruth Charles. It was a surprise program on Saturday afternoon organized by Aurine Moore, Kathy Smeltzer and Kay Nevil and ably assisted by the Echoes of Happiness. Our church has been trying to have this program for a long time but we could not get a positive date when all would be here. It was worth the wait. They were presented a picture with the three church buildings in Michigan that Elder Charles had a large part of establishing. Of course Ruth was very necessary too, as she played the piano many years for our worship services. There was a beautiful scrapbook gifted to them also with memories and appreciation cards from different members. David was recognized as very instrumental in establishing our youth camp program in 1951. That has been ongoing for over 60 camps already. We were so pleased that Ruth ended up playing the piano for us after the conclusion. I know the Lord will say to them, "well done thou good and faithful servants".

Lynn and Rob Vaughn left the middle of February to go to the Holy Land on a Bible study tour. They were really excited about the trip and looked forward to learning from each area the things that happened there.

There are many needs for prayer from the outlying folks this month—Christine Anderson Talley (Deborah Stoner's daughter) is still suffering with foot pain, and Ellen Momberger's daughter Karen and granddaughter Melissa both had serious surgeries this month. DuWaine Chapman fell and broke his hip and had a pin inserted and now is on the mend. He will be spending time in rehab. Please remember these folks in prayer.

I am happy to report some good news this month. Norma Ripley celebrated her 90th birthday with a family gathering. There was a big snow that day in Roanoke and it kept Rip's brother and wife from attending, but Gabe and Mary Padillo (Norma's sister), son Robert and Adrina and their family gathered for a delightful meal and laughter galore. Check out a couple of pictures taken that day. We are so happy it was so much fun and that both of the Ripleys enjoyed the day.

Kay and Jim Nevil traveled to Hickory NC to visit with Kathy and Jim Hess, former members of the Echoes of Happiness. They had a wonderful time walking and enjoying the wonderful February weather there.

We wish you well in this month of March.



Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

February is always a memorable time for me speaking autobiographically, because it was ground-hogs day 1976 when my current career started. Thanks to Dave Fedor, who took a chance on getting me in where he worked at the time and getting me started as a welder and a fabricator, when I had no experience of doing neither before. I slowly but surely gained skill and confidence which led me to the job I currently have today. Thanks to God's providence, the skills that he bestowed on me, the people like Dave Fedor who gave me a chance, and the opportunities that God granted me I can now keep Diane, my munificent wife lavished in the lap of luxury. She enjoys such amenities as: lights that go on and off with the flip of a switch, hot and cold running water with the flick of the wrist, an indoor fully heated bathroom, a fully automated clothes washer, and the list goes on and on.

As is our custom we have our winter retreat the first weekend in February. For the last several years we have been blessed to have as a guest speaker Pastor Roy Gee, accompanied by his lovely and extremely sweet wife Bennie from California. Quite a few years ago it was me and Elder Moore's campaign to bring in the best speakers from across the world to speak at our winter retreats. Roy Gee at that time was assiduously working through a ministry called "Good News Unlimited". Roy, being born and raised in the UK gives him a prodigious advantage over all of us born American speakers. In the minds of us Americans when we hear a British accent the speakers IQ automatically goes up about 50 points.

This year Pastor Roy Gee's topic was the book of Hebrews. In his sermons he always provides a three point outline. Friday night his first sermon's three points were: "respect for sacred history", "the Son is now supreme", and "the Son holds everything together". Roy pointed out that this actually is an outline of the whole book of Hebrews. Pastor Roy never disappoints and always enhances his talks with engaging parabolic stories. The topic of his second sermon on Saturday morning was Jesus is our high priest that is superior to all other Aaronic high priests. Jesus has been through weakness and testing, experienced it all but the sin and because of His perfect understanding of our frail condition, He is the source of our eternal salvation. Pastor Roy's final sermon had the following three points: "God is the Source of the blessing", Jesus is the means of the blessing", and "We are the beneficiaries of the blessing". For me, Pastor Roy has made the transition from mentor and hero of the faith to good friend. His extremely hard work shows through in every sermon he gives. Even though he has oratorical prowess he still is the apotheosis of humility. If you ever get a chance to hear Pastor Roy Gee speak do not pass it up!

The next weekend Di and I went to church early for the fellowship breakfast we were to have hosted by Elder Moore and Aurine. We were met at the door by Elder Moore and he told us the furnace was out and the church has a temperature of a crisp 39 degrees. During the night before the furnace apparently got tired and gave out on one of the coldest nights in 2012. We went on with the breakfast and tried to stay warm by rubbing our hands over the mound of freshly roasted tater tots. We fired up some small space heaters and had a head expanding and heartwarming lesson on the book of Galatians taught by my mom, Geneva. Meanwhile, all those who are astute in furnace theory huddled around the furnace scratching their heads, rubbing their chins and tried to make a correct diagnosis so they could have a furnace resurrection. Finally, early the next week, Elder Moore after much rumination and wire chasing, found the problem and promptly fixed it.

The following Saturday the ladies collectively hosted their annual "Ladies Tea" with a very special guest speaker, my Mom Geneva Begeman. Even though I'm the wrong gender to attend, my intelligencer gave me a compendium of the message that was given. My Mom talked about her experiences as a young girl going to church and the influences of 3000 sermons she has heard through her lifetime. She also had Kathy Smeltzer read an alphabetical list of all the names for Jesus in the Bible. It's too bad that they chose this gender discriminatory venue to showcase my mother's erudition. We males can only get a few of Mom's chestnuts second hand. I suppose that's better than nothing.

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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Join us for
"A Long Lesson About a Brief Book"
- a new sermon series with
Petersburg Church of God 7th Day
March 10 Meeting at COLOR Church
Pastor John Schott speaks
Potluck to follow
March 17 Elder Tim Begeman
speaks at Petersburg
Pastor Paul Vander Horst
speaks at COLOR
March 24 Pastor Paul Vander Horst
speaks at Petersburg
Elder Tim Begeman speaks at COLOR
March 31 Pastor Charles Moore
speaks at Petersburg
Potluck to follow

Road Closed

They've closed a road near where I live in order to repair a collapsed sewer-pipe. The construction workers have put up a sign saying:

ROAD CLOSED

But, since the actual road closure is not apparent until you go around a bend, a lot of drivers go just to see if the road is **really** closed.

After they see that the road really is closed, they start making their way back. Their embarrassment is made worse by another sign right behind the ROAD CLOSED sign, but facing them on their return. The new sign reads:

TOLD YOU SO!



Ruth playing the piano. Sounded great, she hasn't lost her touch.

**WINTER
RETREAT
2012**



LADIES TEA
Guest speaker—Geneva Begeman



Some of the puzzlers.



Norma, son Robert, Rip



Gabe Padillo, Rip, Norma, Mary Padillo
Norma's sister & brother-in-law

NORMA'S 90!
DOESN'T SHE LOOK GREAT