

# CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2016



The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

## PASTOR'S CORNER

February is the month of love it is our time to celebrate the one we are sweet on that special loved one we are attached too. As Christians we should ask what does the Bible have to say about love for this special person in my life, or does it say anything. 1 Peter 1 teaches us that the Bible has something to say about all aspects of a godly life. So we should conclude the Bible teaches us about love inside of marriage.

First of all the Bible commands the husband to love (agape) his wife in Ephesians 5:25. Christ is the example of this type of love, how He gave Himself for the church. In 1 Peter 3:7, Peter tells the husband to dwell with their wives in knowledge. In order for a man to understand how to love his wife he must be a student of his wife. The man is to lovingly lead his wife, you must know her to lead her. The husband is to give security and safety to his wife.

On the other side of the coin the wife is told to philia her husband. The question is why is the wife never commanded to agape her husband? Well the answer is three fold, first, all Christians are commanded to love the brethren so in this all are under this obligation. Second, the husband is commanded to love, it is not optional, agape love is an voluntary act of will. Third, the roles are not the same for husband and wife in the marriage nor are they made alike. As the hus-

band fulfills this role as the loving leader and protector of the home, the wife becomes relational which is the idea behind philia, it is a relationship. The wife grows fonder of this knight in shining armor who is fulfilling his God given responsibility. By the way this is why she was drawn to you in the first place.

So men we are to love our wives sacrificially and by doing so they become our friends our companion. There is no way that a dog should be man's best friend nor a hunting or fishing buddy take the place of the friendship and companionship we foster with our spouse. It takes work, just read the gospels or read 1 Corinthians 13. This passage teaches us that love is not in word, nor even in just sacrifice, but it comes through learning our spouse and trying to understand them maturing with them and growing and changing together.

As we grow old together our love should grow, way past the infatuation we had when we first started on this journey called life together. This type of relationship far surpasses anything the world can offer.

Happy Valentines Day Pastor Marty

Cedar Grove Baptist Church  
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# I LOVE THEE

An American Folk Hymn taken from *Ingall's Christian Harmony*, 1805

*O love the Lord, all ye saints.* (Psalm 31:23)

Blest be Thy love, dear Lord, that taught us this sweet way,

Only to love Thee for Thyself, and for that love obey.

—*J. Austin*

Secular songs of romantic expressions abound on this day. For the Christian, a hymn about love is also appropriate for Valentine's Day, and no sweeter expression of one's love for Christ can be found than these anonymous lines from an early American folk hymn.

For the early Christians, February 14 was a special day. Tradition tells us that a man by the name of Valentine was a Christian doctor who went about doing good deeds wherever he could, in imitation of his Master. Valentine became a good friend and helper to the Christians, who were being persecuted by the cruel powers of the Roman Empire. It is believed that the good doctor was eventually imprisoned because of his loyalty to his fellow "followers of the Way." After he was beheaded on February 14, that day was observed each year in Valentine's honor by the early Christians.

As time went on, however, Valentine and his deeds of kindness were forgotten. Because February was near

the beginning of spring, with its feelings of romance, the day became a secular holiday celebrating romantic love. Tokens of love and affection were given to sweethearts and friends, starting the custom that we still practice today.

Dr. Valentine gave his life for his fellow Christians because of his deep love for Christ. We too can express our love for the Savior with these simply stated yet profound words ... "but how much I love Thee my actions will show."

*I love Thee, my Savior, I love Thee, my Lord;*

*I love Thee, my Savior, I love Thee, my God:*

*I love Thee, I love Thee, and that Thou dost know;*

*but how much I love Thee my actions will show.*

*O Jesus my Savior, with Thee I am blest,*

*my life and salvation, my joy and my rest:*

*Thy name be my theme and Thy love be my song;*

*Thy grace shall inspire both my heart and my tongue.*

*Oh who's like my Savior? He's heaven's bright king;*

*He smiles and He loves me and helps me to sing:*

*I'll praise Him, I'll praise Him with notes loud and*

*clear; while rivers of pleasure my spirit shall cheer.*

Ira Forest Stanphill was born on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1914, in the town of Bellview, New Mexico. By age ten, he was playing several instruments, and as a teenager he began writing and composing hymns. For many years, he traveled as a singing evangelist, preaching across America and around the world. His most popular gospel song is *Mansion Over the Hilltop*, based on our Lord's

promise that in the Father's house are many mansions. We love it, not only because it reassures us of our heavenly home, but because it enjoins a simple and joyful life – "a cottage below" – as we're on our way to heaven.



## ANNIVERSARIES

Shawn & Ginger Carswell 06 February



## BIRTHDAYS

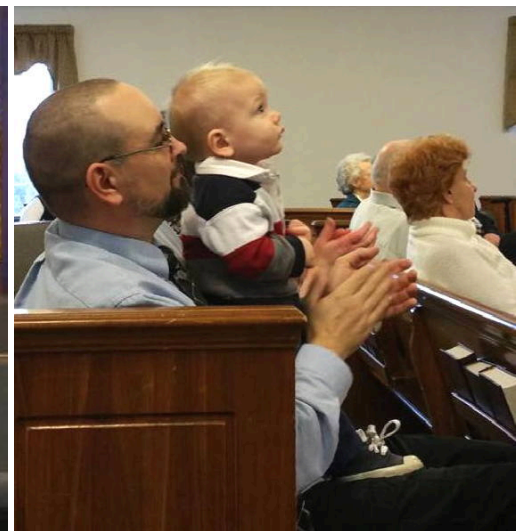
|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Shawn Carswell   | 03 February |
| Doris McHenry    | 05 February |
| Luke Owens       | 26 February |
| Nathan Whitehead | 27 February |
| Ashley Dunn      | 27 February |
| Michelle Bolton  | 02 March    |
| Michelle Camp    | 03 March    |



# DEDICATION SERVICE 01/17/16



| TRINITY SCHOOL         |      |
|------------------------|------|
| ENROLLMENT             | 55   |
| ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY | 42   |
| ATTENDANCE             | 35   |
| ATTENDANCE             | 1210 |
| ATTENDANCE             | 20   |



## SOME THOUGHTS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

*A few comments concerning Ephesians 5:25*

KJV—*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

The husband is bound by love to ensure that his wife finds their marriage a source of rich fulfillment and joyful service to the Lord. Notably, Paul devotes three times more space to the husband's duty (nine verses) than to the wife's (three verses).

Crossway Bibles, *The ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2272.

The instructions given to husbands are three times longer than those given to wives. **love.** Not just an emotional response but an act of the will that is explained by what follows. **as Christ.** Husbands must follow Christ's example, lovingly sacrificing their own interests for the wife's good.

Douglas J. Moo, "The Letters and Revelation," in *NIV Zondervan Study Bible: Built on the Truth of Scripture and Centered on the Gospel Message*, ed. D. A. Carson (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015), 2409.

The responsibilities of *both* husband and wife are dramatically opposed to self-interest.

D. A. Carson, *For the Love of God: A Daily Companion for Discovering the Riches of God's Word.*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1998), 25.

What I do want to say about the relationships of husbands and wives will boil down to this: for the Christian of either sex, there is only one rule to follow and that is, "What does the Bible say?"

Christians are first of all children of God, and as children of God we are committed to the Word of God. We are committed to a Man and a Book, the man being the Lord Jesus Christ and the book, of course, the Holy Scriptures.

When we have discovered what the Bible has to say with finality about any subject and have determined what pleases the Man in the glory, there is no room left for arguments.

A. W. Tozer and Ron Eggert, *The Tozer Topical Reader*, vol. 2 (Camp Hill, PA: WingSpread, 1998), 27–28.

Christ loved the church with an authentic love. By that, I mean it was real. It wasn't fantasy; it was the church as the church is. It was you and me as we were and as we are. Christ was under no illusion when He sought us in love. And of course, that is

the way husbands are to love their wives—with realistic, authentic love.

We must recognize that our love will embrace all of our wife's faults and failures and all of her unlovable and disagreeable elements. When a young couple enters into marriage with unrealistic expectations, it doesn't take long before those expectations are brought back down to earth. Marriage is a mixture of ideals and reality. It's a wonderful thing to know that Christ loves us as we were and continues to love us as we are. He loved us in spite of our sins.

Christ's love for us is not idealized, romanticized, or stylized. It is simply authentic, meeting sinners like us exactly where we are.

David Jeremiah, *Sanctuary: Finding Moments of Refuge in the Presence of God* (Nashville, TN: Integrity Publishers, 2002), 90.

From the early days of Church History

John Chrysostom (A.D. 347–407)

Wouldest thou have thy wife obedient unto thee, as the Church is to Christ? Take then thyself the same provident care for her, as Christ takes for the Church. Yea, even if it shall be needful for thee to give thy life for her, yea, and to be cut into pieces ten thousand times, yea, and to endure and undergo any suffering whatever,—refuse it not. Though thou shouldest undergo all this, yet wilt thou not, no, not even then, have done anything like Christ. For thou indeed art doing it for one to whom thou art already knit; but He for one who turned her back on Him and hated Him. In the same way then as He laid at His feet her who turned her back on Him, who hated, and spurned, and disdained Him, not by menaces, nor by violence, nor by terror, nor by anything else of the kind, but by his unwearied affection; so also do thou behave thyself toward thy wife. Yea, though thou see her looking down upon thee, and disdain, and scorning thee, yet by thy great thoughtfulness for her, by affection, by kindness, thou wilt be able to lay her at thy feet. For there is nothing more powerful to sway than these bonds, and especially for husband and wife.

BTW: The nickname Chrysostom means *Golden Mouth* John Chrysostom, "Homilies of St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, on the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians,"