

Eisenhower Church of Christ

LOVE...An Evil Mask for Mischief

According to Paul, love is greater than faith and hope (I Corinthians 13:13). We might understand why if we consider that ***“God is love”*** (I John 4:8). It was love that motivated Jesus to lay down His life for His friends. Of this, Jesus said: ***“Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends”*** (John 15:13). Our own ability to love God is but a reflection of His love for us. John wrote: ***“We love him, because He first loved us”*** (I John 4:8). John said that we are to ***“love one another: for love is of God”*** (I John 4:7). As Christians, our love is to be so manifested that we are recognized by our love for one another (cf. John 13:34-35), by our love for our neighbors (cf. Mark 12:3'), by our love for our enemies (cf. Luke 6:27), and by our supreme love for our heavenly Father (cf. Luke 10:27). Love truly is precious, necessary and magnificently great. Even so, love is not limitless.

There are things the Christian must not love in order to be pleasing to God. The be-titled “Apostle of Love” charged: ***“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”*** (I John 2:15). James told us why we are not to love the world, saying: ***“Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”*** (James 4:4). And, to be truly God-like, we must hate some things. Psalms 97:10 reads: ***“Ye that love the Lord; hate evil.”*** Proverbs 6:16-19 lists seven things which God hates. In Proverbs 8:13, Solomon instructs: ***“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the forward mouth, do I hate.”*** We cannot love the things God hates.

Love has often been used as an evil mask for mischief. Delilah claimed she loved Samson. She used the evil mask of love as an inveiglement and cover for the wickedness she intended to perform. Her plan was to use love to get Samson to drop his guard. After attempting and failing three times to get Samson to reveal the secret of his strength, Delilah challenged Samson’s love for her by saying, in effect, ***“If you really loved me you would not treat me the way you do.”*** Judges 16:15 actually records her saying: ***“How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me?”*** Judas Iscariot was also wearing an evil mask of love when he betrayed the Carpenter from Nazareth with a kiss (cf. Luke 22:47-48). Through the examples of Delilah and Judas (and others) we should be able to see that there are some who would hide behind love when in reality evil is their intention. God hates evil.

Today, there are those in the church who rally to the support of those who believe, preach and practice false doctrine, accusing the defenders of the faith of being without love. In one church’s bulletin, preachers were attacked because of their vocal and written opposition to doctrinal corruption and false teachers. The writer of that article judged the motives of those preachers, alleging that they only want quick and easy recognition. That same writer also judged the hearts of those who want false teachers to be opposed, saying that such preachers do not have love in their hearts. That writer (and others like him) attempt to use “love” as a mask to cover up open-faced evil. Regardless of what anyone says, love neither allows us to tolerate false doctrine nor to refuse to deal with those in error. Paul told Timothy, ***“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils...If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained”*** (I Timothy 4:1-6).

May love always abound, dwelling in our hearts. However, let us never abuse love by tolerating doctrinal error in the name of love. Paul confronted Peter and even wrote about it, saying: ***“I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed”*** (Galatians 2:11). John, the loving apostle, dealt harshly with Diotrophes (cf. 3 John 9). Who will charge that Paul and John were without love or that they were

trying to gain quick recognition by their words and actions? Need we mention Christ and His opposition to error? Let us not be duped by those who would use love as a mask for mischief!

—Tommy J. Hicks

Prayer Request

Winford Hambright had a carotid test Wednesday, January 16th and a swallow test on the 17th. Please continue to keep Winford in your prayers that he will get good reports.

Janet Wesson (Jeff's mother) had another biopsy done in Abilene on Tuesday, January 15th. Please continue to keep Janet in your prayers that her tests will have good results.

Nina Wright was admitted to the Midland Memorial Hospital on Saturday, January 12th. She is in ICU—#543 with complications from the flu and COPD. Nina is currently hooked up to a ventilator and is in fair condition. Loyce has requested prayers for her.

Prayer List

Brian Basaldua; Dennis Betts; Bill Brown; Brad Bundick; Bill Butler; Dana Erwin; Densell Fambro; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Wayne Gunn; Winford Hambright; Roberta Hamil; Letha Hooper; Jennifer Jones; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Juan & Estella Morolez; Sharion Price; Hector Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Janelle Shirley; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Verla Snyder; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; Marilyn Upshaw and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

What did Esau sell to his brother Jacob for a bowl of lentil stew?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

The Jews desired the death of the Lord because "He made himself the Son of God" (John 7)

Events

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the "**Speaking the Truth in Love**" program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Singing Seminar

Myron Bruce will be here to conduct a "Singing Seminar" for us on April 6th and 7th. Please set these days aside to attend and learn more about singing and making melody in your heart unto the Lord.

Thank You

Dear Ladies of Eisenhower,

We want to thank all of you that had a part in putting together the goodies box that you delivered to all of the senior members. The goodies were so very good and we love you so much for your goodness and showing us how much you care.

Love you all,
Bill & Mary Brown

Ladies of Eisenhower,

Just a note to thank all of you for being so nice to send us the basket of goodies for the holidays. It was greatly appreciated.

Dusty, Kathy & Juli Marshall

Just a note to tell the ladies; "Thanks for the wonderful box of cookies and candies. I enjoyed it for a long time and so grateful for each and every one".

Sincerely,

Glenna McCarthy

Holly Wesson's teenage girls brought me a "Sunshine Box" made by them and had different ones write a note to me. It brought me lots of sunshine to know that you are remembered. Thank you for the Sunshine Box and the visit.

Sincerely,

Glenna McCarthy

To the Eisenhower Church,

Thanks for all the cards, food and calls. I'm fighting bronchitis at the time being. It seems one thing after the other.

Love ya,

Glenna

Office News

The "New Mexico Children's Home" will be here Tuesday, March 5th for a food pick up. They are requesting **Aluminum Foil**. Monetary donations are also accepted.

STF—Group #4 will meet in the annex this morning for their group meeting.

Facts It To Me...

Mordecai acted as Esther's father, but he was really her cousin. (Esther 2:7)

January 20th, 2019

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Rudy Ochoa	Jacob Carson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Josh Wells	Richard Siler
Second Prayer	George Warren	Rudy Ochoa
Closing Prayer	Craig Wesson	Don Easlon

Lord's Supper

(Scripture Reading)

West...

Jacob Carson

Doug Guynn

Dan Igo

Jaxon Straw

Tom Sorenson

Communion

(In Library)

East...

Gary Loving

Don Easlon

Tommy Garcia

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson - 556-5547 *Deacons*; Richard Siler 556-2151 *Pulpit*; Richard Siler 556-2151 *Tables*; Tom Sorenson 638-9447— *Song Leaders*; Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Sermons*; Dex Dennard 296-1582 *Collections*; Dex Dennard

Sunday AM

"Brotherly Love"
(1 John 3:14-17)

Sunday PM

"Preaching the Cross"
(1 Corinthians 1:18)

Our Records

Bible Class... 73

Morning Worship...95

Evening Worship...74

Wednesday...88

Contribution...\$5,510.00