

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Ms. Dannels, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Sowder, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Love for the Brethren

By Derek Long

Jesus said to His disciples, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35, NKJV). Christians should have love for one another. 1 Peter 1:22 commands us to "love one another fervently with a pure heart" (NKJV). 1 Peter 2:17 teaches us to "love the brotherhood" (NKJV). 1 Peter 3:8 says we are to "love as brothers" (NKJV). A failure to love one's brother demonstrates we really do not love God as we should (1 John 4:20-21). Many more passages throughout the New Testament could be cited which teach us the responsibility to love the brethren. What are some things we will do if we love the brethren as we should?

- Love for another will not harm the other person (Romans 13:8-10). Love will cause a person to avoid sin because sin does not just impact the individual sinning but others around him as well.
- Love for the brethren will help brethren work out problems when they arise. Ephesians 4:1-6 speaks about the unity God

desires to exist among His people. In order for such unity to exist, we must bear with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2). Love will help a person bear with the different quirks certain brethren might have which are not sinful (Romans 15:1). Love will help us want to maintain a harmonious relationship with other brethren.

- Love for the brethren will lead a person to correct a brother who is in sin. Love “does not rejoice in iniquity” (1 Corinthians 13:6, NKJV). Love prevents us from being happy or acting as though there is no problem with a person who is engaging in sinful practices. Love for a person will cause us to warn the wicked of their wicked actions. Jesus spoke out of love toward the rich young ruler when He told him what he lacked (Mark 10:21). Love is willing to go to a brother who has sinned against you and confront him about his sin (Matthew 18:15-17). It is not loving to sit back and let the brother think he is okay and/or you are okay with them when things are not right.
- Love for the brethren will lead us to forgive a person when they repent. God expects us to forgive others just as we have been forgiven by Him (Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13). Our attitude should be one of joy and happiness when a brother who has been in sin comes back to the Lord and is seeking to make things right with God and others (Luke 15). The Corinthians were initially failing to demonstrate love for the brother who was with his father’s wife because they were failing to correct the sin (1 Corinthians 5). It appears they eventually dealt with the sin and the man repented. However, they were then taught the importance of showing love to this individual who had now

repented. 2 Corinthians 2:6-8 says, “This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him” (NKJV).

- Love for the brethren will lead us to try to help those brethren who are in need. The early church demonstrated love for the brethren by helping those who were needy saints (Acts 2:44-45). It is one thing to say we love someone and yet the Bible teaches us we must demonstrate that love by our actions (1 John 3:17-18).
- Love for the brethren will lead us to pray for our brethren. Many of Paul’s epistles speak of him praying for the brethren to whom he was writing and many of them contain requests for the prayers of other Christians. 1 Timothy 2:2 teaches us to pray for all men. Such should certainly include praying for our brethren (James 5:16; etc.).

Let’s be sure we heed the command of Hebrews 13:1 and “Let brotherly love continue” (NKJV)!