



On the Same Page

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

(2 Corinthians 5:20 NAS95)

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long. What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.

Heaven is a World of Love

The title of this post is from Jonathan Edwards and the title of one of his essays. It describes a world in which love is pure and unsullied. **Heaven is a world of love.** We don't have that now.

I would like to address just one aspect of the problem of **an sullied love** (definition: defiled or tainted, soiled or stained). But first we must remove a common error. **“The opposite of love isn't hate, it's indifference.”** That is a quote that I copied a couple weeks ago. I didn't keep the source since it is a common observation. Love and hate are not opposites. You can imagine a person, perhaps a spouse, who has been betrayed by his/her partner. They have loved this person, and they continue to do so. But they also hate him/her. Love and hate can coexist in the same person and at the same time. Some would be surprised to note that the Bible calls upon us to love, but it also calls us to hate - to hate the things that God hates.

No, **the opposite of love is indifference.** There were very few Valentine cards shared last week that said, “I love you with all my heart, and I couldn't care less.” Garrison Keillor from Prairie Home Companion had a sketch where he claimed that it was **disinterest** that drew him and his wife together in the first place. Likewise, we would never say that **indifference** is the glue that holds us together.

Can you imagine being a patient in a care facility, perhaps a hospital? And can you imagine that there would be a difference between a nurse or attendant who did their job with clinical efficiency, but with personal disinterest; and then contrast this with another caregiver who functions with the same clinical skills, but who provides that skill combined with love for you, the patient? Would you notice the difference? I believe you would. Why? Because they care.

Caregivers are those who care. They love. It makes a difference.

But caring and loving is hard. It is painful. When you love a person, there is no guarantee that they will love you back. Or, given the illustration above, maybe they will die. I suppose the first, uncaring “caregiver” could say, “Oh well, another one bites the dust.” But not the second. He/she will grieve. **It hurts to lose in love.**

And so we have to ask, **how was it that Jesus served us?** He had the unique ability to provide redemption to sinful humanity because he was both divine and human. Only God can save, and only One can save who can walk in our shoes and die in our place. He had the ability to do the job. Now did He do so with disinterest? The

[beginning of John 13](#), describing Jesus in the Upper Room just before He was arrested, was described like this: ***“Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”*** There was no disinterest on the part of Jesus.

And so, if we claim to be followers of Jesus; if we claim to be Christians, **we cannot give ourselves over to indifference. We must love, which will help prepare us for heaven, because heaven is a world of love.**

How many couples do you know who continue to live with each other as they grow older, but they live with indifference toward each other? Wouldn't it be something if Christ were welcomed into their relationship, that they might once again discover **an unsullied love?**

Glorious Freedom by Richard Sibbes

In a wicked man there is nothing but flesh, and therefore there is no resistance. And we must understand the nature of this spiritual liberty in sanctification. It is not a liberty freeing us altogether from conflict, and deadness, and dullness, and the like; but it is a liberty enabling us to combat, not freeing us from combat. It is a liberty to fight the battles of the Lord against our own corruptions, not freeing us from it. That is the liberty of glory in heaven, when there shall be no enemy within or without.

Notes:

Sunday school meets each week at 10 a.m. with classes for adults and children. **“Training Table”** (breakfast) for the youth class will be ready at 9:45 a.m.

Ladies Bible study is conducting their Winter series on Tuesdays, 10 a.m., with a study called Seven Feasts: Finding Christ in the Celebrations of the Old Testament, by Erin Davis.

Our next **Wednesday evening dinner, discussion and prayer is next week, Mar 6, 6 p.m. Men of Action breakfast and meeting** is Mar 10, 8 a.m.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, February 25, we continue our Winter series, “Living in the Light of His Coming” with a study of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and a message, titled, **“Rescued from the Coming Wrath.”** We will look at various examples of “rapture” in the Bible.

Last Sunday, February 18, we moved forward in 1 Thessalonians to chapter 4, verses 1-12, with a message called **“Living in Sanctification and with Honor.”** We find here a practical consideration for those who are **“Living in the Light of His Coming.”** This is one of the main passages in the Bible that addresses sanctification and sexual ethics. [Listen to the message here.](#)

On the Same Page weekly newsletters are available on our website, and there is also an email list which will deliver the newsletter to you each week.

Daily Encouragement emails go out Monday-Saturday mornings, with a short devotional and congregational prayer requests. You may request to be added to this list (or, deleted from this list) by sending a request to baptistmilford@gmail.com.

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