

New Prayer Concerns:

Pearson Martin has been diagnosed with cancer. He will have surgery and chemo. Remission is a possibility. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Sherry West continues to undergo tests, but things are looking better than was feared. She is on new medication and will have CT Scan on 2/16.

Noel Green, Lester & Dora's granddaughter passed away on Tuesday.

Frank Faircloth, Rene Comerford's grandfather is home from the hospital. Please continue to pray.

Kim Martin's father had an MRI on Thursday. Results are pending

Please pray for the Miller family and the Powell family after the recent loss of loved ones.

Others in our Prayers:

Gynell Chambliss, Missy Williams, Dale Newberry, Gertrude West, Hilda Barnett, Royce & Nada Whittington, The Hall family, Dora Gatlin.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Our church family, Our Elders and their families, Our Deacons and their families, Our Minister and his family, Our Troops, Our local Law Enforcement, Our Youth & Youth Leaders, Our children & grandchildren

Prayer List Updates:

If you have prayer list items that need to be added or deleted, please make sure to let one of the Elders know! Names will be removed from the prayer list after 3 weeks if there is no update.

February Celebrations:

5th - Greg Waddell's Birthday

7th - Donna Hosey's Birthday

8th - Marsha Harper's Birthday

14th - Tommy Harper Jr.'s Birthday

15th - Luke Martin's Birthday

16th - Matthew Dittmann's Birthday

19th - Bob Day's Birthday

20th - Greg and Dee Waddell's Anniversary

22nd - Ruby Comerford's Birthday

22nd - C.E. Comerford's Birthday

Upcoming Events:

TODAY - 5:00pm Ladies' Day Mtg.

February 23rd - Children's Home truck arrives

March 21st - Ladies' Day

Contribution:

2/1 - \$1032.00

YTD - \$3180.66

Contacts:

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Welcome to the Bainbridge Church of Christ

1001 Culbreth Street
Bainbridge, Ga. 39819

February 8th, 2009



Elders

Lester Gatlin
Royce Whittington

Deacons

Mitchell Comerford
Don Rabon
Chad Waddell

Minister

Tim Mahler

Services:

Sunday: 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Worship
6:00pm Worship/Youth Program
Wednesday: 6:30pm Bible Study

A Valentine "Form Jimmy" Copyright © 2003 Jim Elliff

Valentine's Day brings back some strange memories for me. I'm especially haunted by the fact that after signing my batch of Valentines on the night before the classroom exchange I would invariably inscribe some with "Form Jimmy." I hated that. I knew the difference between "Form" and "From," but my hand seemed destined to make this mistake at least some of the time. This was alright if the card went to someone with "cooties," but heart wrenching if it went to some of my favorite people. People with cooties, well, they didn't deserve much anyway.

We all know that Valentines Day is more likely designed by the Card manufacturers than God. There's nothing in the Bible about such an event. But it doesn't hurt to think about love on a cold February day. After all, it's part of the definition of God Himself.

Here is the way Jesus laid it out. He said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (Jn. 13:34) Why is it called new?

The initial standard of love for others was based on our love for ourselves-"Love your neighbor as yourself." But here Jesus ups the standard and makes Himself the measure of love-and this is brand new. Our love for ourselves is uneven, incomplete, and sometimes distorted. But Jesus love for people is pure, sacrificial and unconditional. There is no higher standard to be found.

Throughout the New Testament then you find this standard placarded before us. We are to forgive as Christ forgave, bear burdens like Christ did, give as Christ gave, accept others as Christ accepts us.

Paul said, for instance, "Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God." (Rom. 15:7)

It might help to place in front of your mind that person who is most disagreeable to you, that cantankerous, obnoxious, or overbearing person, or maybe that person who gets all the breaks, all the attention.

Do you accept that person like Christ accepts you? Is it possible? The source for that love is the Spirit within us. But the way that love begins to show up in the believer often corresponds to our perspective on His acceptance of us. A healthy understanding of just how much love that takes, considering what kind of person we are, really helps.

We are professional sinners, committing thousands of sins in our lives, so what right should we have to reject someone else? And the fact that we really know better, makes our sins even more grievous. But Christ accepts us unconditionally. Can we really shun someone else when we're thinking accurately about that amazing fact?

Love doesn't mean that you like every one equally, or that you will spend the same amount of time with people whose mannerisms are difficult for you to respond to. It does not mean that we give in to everybody's desires, or that we should not think through the best way to be with people.

Love is deeper than "like." But you must not shun the difficult people. You must not be exclusive in spirit. You must welcome the difficult people from your heart as much as Christ welcomes you. You must be ready and inclusive when God brings them to you.

A friend of mine was the chaplain for the Razorback Football team in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He pastors a church that has attracted many college students. Years ago on the practice field at the very time he was talking seriously with a player about Christ, up came Tommy one more time. "Hiiiiiii, pastor!" he blurted out. Tommy was one of those people who was too loud and always had wrong timing. He was a slow learner. And he became a real irritation to this pastor. Tommy got in his way-almost always.

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Raintree Village Children's Home Items

Today, please bring *canned fruit drinks (apple, orange, or grape)*.
Next Sunday, please bring *paper cups*.

The truck will come on Feb. 23rd.

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When considering this nagging problem, God brought this potent thought to this pastor's mind: "Remember, you are my Tommy."

He got the message. Do you?

Christ accepts his family without condition. He did not accept us because we are something special. He accepted us in the same way we are to accept others, cooties and all. And Valentine's Day, whether it is in the Bible or not, is as good a starting place for that kind of love as any other day.

Remember Otis? By Bob Prichard

If you are a follower of the old "Andy Griffith Show", you will well remember Otis, the town drunk, who periodically checks himself into jail to sleep off his hangover. Otis is a lovable character who never hurts anybody else although he doesn't know how to handle the bottle.

One show had an interesting development. Otis received a letter from his brother, telling him he was coming to visit. Otis had foolishly told his brother that he was a deputy sheriff, and didn't know what to do. Andy, who always tried to accommodate anyone, offered to let Otis become a temporary deputy, only while his brother was in town. The catch was that Otis had to stay sober. Of course, his wife wouldn't believe it was true until he destroyed his hidden liquor at home.

Everything went according to plan when his brother came, and Otis was even strong enough to refuse to drink on duty when his brother asked him to go get a drink. Otis wanted to make sure that his brother new that he was a success, not the failure that his brother expected him to be.

But then something completely unexpected happened. Otis kept expecting to get in his masquerade, but then his brother did the unimaginable. As Otis looked on in surprise, his brother came into the jail drunk, and checked himself in just like Otis did every weekend. The brother was appropriately sorry as Otis lectured him on how he had let down the whole family by his actions.

Andy's lesson to Otis was that he shouldn't have been so self-conscious about trying to impress others. But I believe there was another lesson. Otis had the chance to see himself as he really was. He had a chance to hear, "*Thou art the man.*"

You see, when King David stole Uriah's wife, and then had him killed to cover up his sin, he thought he had really covered up everything. But then Nathan told him a story about a rich man who took a poor man's one ewe lamb to feed a travelling visitor. David was incensed about this man's wickedness and vowed a fourfold retribution, and that the man should die. Nathan boldly concluded, "*Thou art the man.*" (2Sam 12:7) To his credit, David responded in penitence, and accepted his punishment. But Otis never changed. He never reformed. He could see how his brother embarrassed him, but he never saw himself. How about you? Have you had a "*Thou art the man*" experience? How did you respond?