

New Prayer Concerns:

Marjorie Cross, Sherry West's grandmother, had a fall in the Nursing Home and broke her elbow. They had to do surgery on Wednesday to try and repair it with pins. It is a serious break. She is back in the nursing home, and hopefully holding her own.

Robby Dittmann continues to recover from surgery.

Others in our Prayers:

Ruby Comerford, Hazel Donalson, Grady Harper, Jr., Jane Free, Tom Gatlin, Bobby Goodwin, Hannah Mahler

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Lester & Dora Gatlin, Royce & Nada Whittington, the Hall family, Missy Williams, Sherry West, Robby Dittmann, Pearson Martin, Frank Faircloth, Hilda Barnett, C.E. Comerford, Davis Wallace

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.

Upcoming Celebrations:

7th Kim Martin's birthday
7th Jeff & Kim Martin's anniversary
11th Ellis Sizemore's birthday
12th Laura Thompson's birthday
15th Joe & Rhonda Talley's anniversary
17th Jay & Sherry West's anniversary
19th Tommy Sr. & Marsha Harper's anniversary
23rd Betty Sizemore's birthday
24th David Hill's birthday
27th Eric Spooner's birthday

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 20th - Sunday Fellowship

Contribution:

8/30 - \$625.00
9/6 - \$511.00

Total thru August - \$30,858.02

Contacts:

Elder Royce Whittington 246-3924
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Website:

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Welcome to the Bainbridge Church of Christ

1001 Culbreth Street
Bainbridge, Ga. 39819

September 13th, 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

Putting Love Top on Your List

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He was one of the most cantankerous men I had ever known. When all the church wished to move forward into a new area of ministry, you could count on him confronting the elders about it in a negative way. In fact, "negative" was his middle name. Our system of decision-making did not allow his views to be buried in a hidden vote, but brought him straight into contact with the leaders, with whom he almost always disagreed. Time after time there he was, the only "aginner."

What did we do?

The leaders decided not to solve the problem administratively, by a system change. No, we were looking for a heart change. We felt we should confront him directly in the hope that he could become the man God wanted him to be. Much to our surprise, it worked! He received our admonition with amazing calm. He appreciated our concern. And he completely reset his life and renewed his sense of commitment to the church. At the end of it all, our greatest leadership curmudgeon became one of our most reliable allies. Love won out.

Why should we desire love above administrative solutions?

First of all, love is the highest mark of maturity. Therefore, not loving the other members of the church is a sign of our immaturity. There may be problems with the other person that are inexcusable, but no problem makes love impossible. In fact, it might be love that calls for helping the offending person see the right way, if you can do it with grace. Or, in other cases, it might mean overlooking his or her fault.

Second, love is the "perfect bond of unity," the glue that keeps the church together, according to the apostle Paul (Col. 3:14). Do you want unity in the church? Of course you do. But love is critical to make that happen. A church that does not major on love is headed toward disruption. Nothing bonds like love as it works itself out in forgiveness and acceptance.

Third, love is the way of blessing because it is grounded in humility.

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (Phil. 2:3-4)

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Raintree Village Children's Home Items

Today, please bring **trash bags**.

Next Sunday, please bring **paper cups**.

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God says that the humble person is the blessed person. "Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for 'God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble'" (1 Pet. 5:5). A church is always in need of more grace. More grace comes from more humility toward each other. And humility toward others is, in essence, love at work.

Finally, love is the reasonable return for what God has given you. "Forgive each other as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven you" (Col. 3:13; Rom. 15:7). Christians should never forget God's mercy toward them. If you have experienced the love of God, it is natural for you to extend the same toward others.

You can love more

When the apostle Paul wrote the Thessalonian church, he was writing to people he loved dearly. "We proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children" (1 Thess. 2:7). Love made ministry to them possible. But it was important that they would have the vision for love's powerful effects. Therefore Paul appeals to them to excel in love themselves:

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more. (1 Thess. 4:10)

I am often surprised when I find churches that want to be good teaching churches, aggressive evangelistic churches, energetic missions-minded churches, but who have no plan for increasing love among its members. This is a great mistake. A church that works hard on love will have all the rest thrown in.

There will be much that your church will find impossible to achieve, but nothing can stop you from becoming the most loving church that has ever existed. Do all you can to "excel still more" in the virtue of love.