

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Hiram Church of Christ

www.hiramchurchofChrist.com · 7660 Nebo Road, Hiram, GA 30141 · (770) 943-9977

LARGE ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU AND SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU

“Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.” **Romans 16:16**

FIRST CENTURY CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

MINISTER: MELVIN J. BRYANT II

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

1 Peter 4:11

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements: Matt Johnson
Opening Prayer: Matt Johnson
Song Leader: Kwame Abdul
Second Prayer: Clarence Procter
Lord’s Table: Melvin J. Bryant III
 Devin Bryant
Message: Melvin J. Bryant II
Closing Prayer: Alex Johnson

Attendance

Morning Hour: 14
Bible Class: 20
Worship: 23
Wednesday: 13
Contribution: \$ TBA

Weekly Service Times

 The Morning Hour 9:00am
 Bible Class 10:00am
 Morning Worship 11:00am
 Wed. Evening Bible Classes 7:30pm

The Morning Hour

- Announcements
- Prayer
- Song
- 25 Minute Study
- Card Writing/Mail Outs
- Prepare for 10:00am Bible Class

Missions: India & Childhaven

PLAN OF SALVATION

- ★ Taught by God - John 6:45
- ★ Believe - John 8:24
- ★ Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
(Repentance entails counting the cost)
- ★ Confess - Matthew 10:32-33
- ★ Be Baptized - Matthew 28:18-20
- ★ Live a FAITHFUL life until death - Revelation 2:10



PART III

WHAT IF WE BEGAN TO TREAT OUR BIBLES THE WAY WE TREATED OUR CELL PHONES?

WHAT IF WE...

...carried it with us everywhere?

...turn back to get it if we forgot it?

...checked it for messages throughout the day?

...used it in case of emergencies?

...spend an hour or more each day using it?



What would our lives look like?

ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES

Lea Overton (Jeff's mother), Sebastian and Erica Suarez, Ron McCurry (shut in-visits requested), Amy Brown, Polly Tunstall (Amy's mother), Ann Phillips, Harold and Dean Reeves, Mary Brock's daughter Potts/Williams family, Kilwonia Chandler, Vera Patrick, Mary Troup, Joanie Saporito, Charlie Griffin, Patty Dale, Daniel Welker (kidney transplant), Al Gattis (COPD), Ben Westbrooks (leukemia), Anita Berger husband Rich, Sis. Carolyn, Ashley (Sis. Erica's sister) and her family, Sis. Proctor, Anita Berger, Charlie Griffin.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **The Webb** family lost their daughter Kira. Let us keep them in our prayers.
- ▶ **Anita Berger** test result was favorable, but she is still in need of prayers for complications.
- ▶ **Kwame** is in need of prayer for his citizenship as he has applied for it.
- ▶ **Garrison Ihle**, the 5 month old baby of some friends of the Johnsons had his surgery. Please keep him and his family in our prayers.
- ▶ **Carolyn** is still in need of our continual prayer.
- ▶ **Ron McCurry** has requested continued prayers as he will be having a nuclear stress test this week.
- ▶ **Mary Matthews**, the aunt of Sis. Traci Bryant is being treated for cancer. Let us keep her lifted in prayer.
- ▶ **Brother Melvin** has a co-worker, Dondrea Clay who is in need of prayers as she was injured on the job.
- ▶ **Kaitlyn Hunter** mom passed away last week. Let us keep the family in prayer!
- ▶ **Jamie Franklin** is in need of continual prayers after the lost of her parents.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

✓ October Birthdays

Clarence Proctor - 13th
 Matthew Chandler - 24th
 Makayla Johnson - 28th

✓ World Church News

✓ Hiram Church of Christ News

Make plans to stay for the last Sunday fellowship meal each month.

✓ Anniversaries

TBA

✓ Traveling

Sis. Pudgy

Kaitlyn Hunter was baptized on September 15th. Let us keep her in prayer for strength and faithfulness.

✓ Hiram Church News

Sis. Becky will be conducting a ladies class each third Monday of the month. All women are encouraged to attend.

Jonathan Reaves was baptized on September 29th. Let us keep him in prayer for strength and faithfulness.

✓ Local Church News

“BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS GROWTH” Part III

Galatians 5:22 - 2 Peter 3:17

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

We came to understand in 1 Corinthians 13:4 that there are FIVE (5) characteristics of LOVE in that ONE verse!

(1). LOVE is “Longsuffering”! Love is “Patient (longsuffering)” toward people! God has NO DESIRE for man to die in their sin! (2 Peter 3:9).

(2). LOVE is “Kind”! Love shows KINDNESS! This Greek Word means, “to be kind to, to be merciful toward.” (LEH Septuagint). The word “Kindness” here is the Greek Word, “φιλανθρωπία philanthrōpia” it is the word where we get our English Word, “Philanthropy” from and carries a definition that means, “affectionate concern for the interest in humanity.” (BDAG pg. 1055). We see and know of a lot of people (celebrities also) that are “Philanthropist,” BUT; just because a person promotes the welfare of others, (which is a commendable thing), and they give LARGE donations of money to benefit the welfare of mankind, that does NOT MEAN....that they are SAVED and that God grants them salvation! The natives on Malta were NOT Christians, *however*, they showed unusual KINDNESS to Paul and people who they didn’t know (Acts 28:1ff). Now, “IF” we can help people by showing this kind of LOVE as Christians, God is well pleased!

(3). LOVE does NOT “Envy”! Love does not, “experience strong envy and resentment against someone—Love is NOT Jealous or Envious” Of ANYONE or what ANYONE has! (Louw-Nida Vol. 1, p. 759). I can call to your attention 1 Corinthians 3:3 where Paul told the Corinthians brethren earlier in his epistle, “for you are still carnal. For where there is ENVY, Strife and Divisions among you, are you not Carnal and behaving like mere men?” Being ENVIOUS is a trait of being Worldly and that’s something God wants us NOT to be! In Ecclesiastes 4:4, Solomon wrote these words, “Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is ENVIED by his neighbor. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.” The Bible WARNS us of the effects of being Envious! *However*, Paul tells us that LOVE does NOT ENVY, LOVE is NOT envious of what your neighbor has!

(4). LOVE does NOT “PARADE Itself”! Love does NOT, “Praise yourself excessively”! (Louw Nida vol. 1 pg. 430)! “To inflate with pride and vanity....” (Moulton pg. 431)! Romans 12:3 tells us that, “....we ought NOT to think of ourselves MORE HIGHLY than we ought to think!” (emp.mine)! Examples of this is found in the person of King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:28-33, and in the Parable of the Rich Fool in Luke 12:13-21!

(5). LOVE is not “PUFFED Up”! “Puffed” up here means, “to cause someone to be proud, arrogant, or haughty - to make proud, to make arrogant, to make haughty!” (Louw Nida vol 1. pg. 764)! People can INFLATE you SO MUCH that you forget who God is! *Remember* Acts 12:20-23. And, be mindful of what Jesus said in Luke 6:26!

I. WHAT LOVE IS NOT

A. Paul having shown us two (2) POSITIVE attributes of “Love” when he says (1) “Love suffers Long AND; (2) Love is Kind,”

- Now, we examine the remaining five negative behaviors of what “Love” is NOT! (see 1 Corinthians 13:5).

B. Love does NOT behave “Rudely”!

- The word “Rudely” here is defined as, “to act in defiance of social and moral standards, with resulting disgrace, embarrassment, and shame—to act shamefully, indecent behavior, shameful deed.” (Louw & Nida Vol. 1, p. 758).

- LOVE does not behave in a disgraceful fashion, it's NOT rude!
 - In the Old Testament, the Bible uses this word in five passages! One defines proper and improper corporal punishment for criminals in Deuteronomy 25:3!
 - The other four (4) times is found in Ezekiel 16:7, 22, 39; 23:29), and these are in reference to how one is improperly clothed!
 - So, RUDE behavior can be considered even in the way you dress because the ROOT of this word in the Greek is "*schema*" which means, "Fashion, form, [your] external show, [your] appearance!" (Moulton, 394).
 - Being RUDE is talking about behavior that is not good and embarrassing to another, AND; for one who does not maintain a Good Appearance!
 - For ALL men and women who disregard what God called "nakedness" in Exodus 28:42, and you wear things that are disrespectful to God first then man, you are being RUDE, and LOVE is NOT (and should not be) RUDE!
 - Romans 12:18-19 encourages us to live peaceable with all men! And, "if" we take the positive behavior of a Christian further, Romans 12:20-21 tells us how our relationship should be toward our enemy!
- C. LOVE does NOT "Seek its own"!
- Here, LOVE is Unselfish! (see 1 Corinthians 10:24).
 - When we LOVE and have the best interest of others in mind, true and genuine love finds you BECAUSE how you're treating others!
 - Romans 15:2 tells us, "*Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.*"
- D. Love is NOT "Provoked!"
- Provoked here is defined as, "to be provoked or upset at someone or something involving severe emotional concern—'to be provoked, to be upset.'" (Louw & Nida - Vol. 1, p. 762)."
 - We should not allow ourselves to become easily provoked by something of an emotional concern!
 - *However*, there are times when we should be provoked as Paul was in Acts 17:16 when he saw the city given over to idolatry!
- E. LOVE.... "Thinks no EVIL"!
- It makes no message of evil done to itself, but allows it to pass unnoticed. It does not attribute evil motives to others, neither is it suspicious. It desires to think well of those whom it loves, and will not think ill of their motives, or conduct until it is compelled to do so by the most un-refuted evidence.
- F. LOVE does NOT "Rejoice in Iniquity!"
- LOVE does NOT Rejoice in Sin! When one is openly sinning, "IF" we truly LOVE them, we would NOT rejoice when they are sinning against the commandments of God!
 - "*Ohhhhhhh, brother so and so caught the lottery for \$10000.00, let us REJOICE with him!*" NO, LOVE does NOT Rejoice in Iniquity because gambling is SIN which is covetousness according to Colossians 3:5! The Bible tells us in Proverbs 27:5, "Open Rebuke is better than LOVE carefully concealed!" It's when you KNOW that family member or friend is in sin and you KNOW what to say but you hold back and feel that by you loving them and letting them be is better! This is the WRONG love to have for them!
- G. Jesus showed the GREATEST love for mankind when He gave His life of the cross of Calvary! (see 1 Peter 2:21-24).
- Be encouraged brethren until the last Amen.....

Sermon Notes
