



The Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH
12 FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

FOR GOD SO LOVED...HE GAVE

BY JERRY ASCHER

This Sunday is Valentine's Day. More cards are exchanged to celebrate Valentine's Day than for any other holiday of the year except Christmas. And much time is spent purchasing a card that communicates the adequate expression of one's love. Love has been defined in many ways. Consider the following:

"Love is like an hourglass, with the heart filling up as the brain empties" - Jules Renard

"Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality" - Emily Dickinson

"Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies" - Aristotle

I could have included other attempts people have made to define love, but Scripture alone gives us the standard for how true love is defined.

"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16). The ultimate act of love was demonstrated "in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). And when we consider such love, it should cause our own hearts to rejoice. We are saved! We've been redeemed! There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ, and we are promised a home in heaven forever! As wonderful as these truths are, if those are our only responses, we have sorely missed the point. Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 5 starting in verse 14, "For the love of Christ compels us...He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." Jesus puts it succinctly, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Our love for Christ is demonstrated in more than just feelings or even words. It is demonstrated in our obedience to the Word of God. It is demonstrated whenever we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. And it is demonstrated by how we treat others, especially those of the body of Christ.

"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three. But the greatest of these is love."

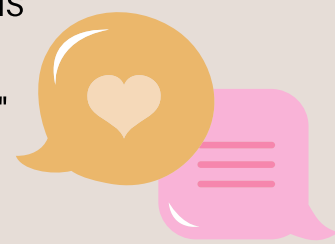
1 Cor. 13:13



SUNDAY, 14 FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES: 9:30 AM, 11 AM OR 6 PM

In-person services (with singing) take place in the gym. Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the auditorium (no singing) or available to you at home.

- "WHY DO THE NATIONS RAGE?" (PSALM 2)
- PRAYER
- "THE OLD RUGGED CROSS"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "TAKE THE NAME OF JESUS WITH YOU"
- "OH, HOW HE LOVES YOU AND ME"
- MESSAGE: "CHRIST PRAYS FOR OUR UNIFICATION" JOHN 17:20-23
PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US"
- PRAYER



2020 DONATION RECEIPTS AVAILABLE

Receipts are available for pick up at the Information Desk Sunday. Those that remain will be mailed out February 16.

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 FOR FAMILY DAY.



WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY/ KIDS 4 TRUTH 7 PM

This mid-week service takes place in-person in the auditorium. If you would like a Zoom link to participate, please email the church office.



Discussion Questions from John 17:20-23

1. Which three words in this passage do you think are most significant?
2. What is being said about those three important words?
3. What does this passage say about Jesus?
4. How do people in this passage respond to Jesus?
5. How does this passage challenge or encourage you?
6. What from this passage can you share to encourage a fellow Christian?
7. What from this passage can you share with an unbeliever?

SINCERE HEARTS LADIES' MINISTRY "BIBLICAL THEOLOGY WORKSHOP" LIVE WEBCAST: MARCH 6



To find out more about this event, please go to the Sincere Hearts' Facebook page or see Holly Williams for details.



