

REAL LOVE

1 John 3:16

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Human beings are definitely emotional creatures. Some do a good job of masking their emotions but they are still very much a part of the way God made us.

There is a longing within us, it is beautifully expressed in Psalm 42:1, 2. "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?" To attempt to deny that deep seated emotions are involved in that is to deny the obvious.

Because God made us with emotions, sometimes there is a struggle within us. We go through times when we simply do not "feel" loved. Those times can be very challenging. Try to imagine a child not "feeling" like they are loved by their parents. That's a depressing thought.

But feeling does not always match reality. A child who is not given every little thing their heart desires is not necessarily "unloved," in spite of what they feel. A child who is deeply loved by their parents will not be given every little thing they desire. Children who are truly loved will, on occasion, be told "no."

A loving God does not give my every single thing my heart desires nor do my feelings determine whether He loves me. How, then, can I be sure that He loves me? "We KNOW love by this, that He laid down His life for us." That's reality. What other evidence do I need?

--Ron Harper--

A Review of “How Effective Is Sunday School?”

***“Also without knowledge the soul is not good, and he who hurries with his feet sins.”
Proverbs 19:2***

An article was shared with me about a week ago discussing the topic of Sunday School. The article concluded that Sunday School is no longer effective and actually has a negative influence on young adults and youth. It is important that as you read this article, you understand that this is not an effort to refute or give rebuttal to the article previously mentioned. However, I intend to use the information presented in that article to give us a basis for our own decision making. As a side note, if anyone tells you that you shouldn't read or study what other people have said or written, they are WRONG! We must treat it like eating a fish. We must eat the meat and spit out the bones (quote from Dr. David Powell).

To begin, the article claims that it surveyed 20,000 people ages 20-29 who had been members of an evangelical congregation but had since left. Here is problem number one. Of course they are going to say Sunday School isn't effective because they themselves have left their respective congregations. The survey would have been more beneficial had they surveyed 20,000 or 40,000 people ages 20-29 from all walks of life. When we research something for ourselves, we need to know where the information came from and what the presuppositions are of the ones collecting the data. (This is true even in Bible study.)

Next, the article says, “If this was the best procedure for teaching children, wouldn't it have been taught and practiced in scripture?” I'll give credit here. Nowhere in the Bible do the words “Sunday School” appear. However, we know the early Christians studied separate from the worship service (Acts 16:25-34, etc.). In no way can anyone say studying the Bible, whether in a group or in a worship assembly, is a bad thing.

Lastly, there is a harmonization that must take place. It is true that Moses commanded the parents to teach their children about God (Deut. 31:12-13). The same is true in the New Testament (Ephesians 5:4). While I advocate for teaching in the home, one way parents can further their children's knowledge of the Lord is to ensure they attend and pay attention in Sunday School. We must never forget the words of Peter as he wrote his second letter to the church: “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity, Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18).

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SICK:

Willis Clark, Nell Jernigan

TAKING TREATMENTS:

Lois Arnold

SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Jeanie Young, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Ernestine Taylor, Janneil Brown, Kinley Mobbs, Jackie Sims, Danny Webb

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann* Nell Jernigan*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*, Ernestine Taylor*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*

MILITARY:

Tony Berry

NEWS & NOTES

***Pew Packers** today @ 5:15 p.m.

***TNT's** (Thursday nights together) will be June 23rd, July 14th and 28th. Each TNT will have a guest speaker. The theme for this year's TNT's is "True Story".

***MYM** – tomorrow, June 13th @ 7p.m. will be hosted here at Salem Creek. There will be about 200-220 young people to attend. Desserts are needed – cookies and brownies. If you wish to participate and make some desserts, you can drop the items off in the kitchen today or tomorrow during office hours. If you prefer to donate funds, please see Randall Phifer or Joshua Houston.

***Men's Breakfast at IHOP** on Tuesday, June 14th, 8 a.m.

*We have **27 people** going to Nicaragua and they would love to receive cards of encouragement. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer. Cards are due by Wednesday, June 15th.

***The Middle Tennessee Christian School Golf Classic** will be held at Champions Run Golf Course on Friday, June 24th. The cost is \$100 per player, \$400 per team. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Go to mtcscouagrs.org for all the details or call 615-893-0601 ext. 114

***Senior Saints** – A Senior Saints pot luck meal is planned for Saturday, June 25th, 5 p.m. at the church building. If you are planning to attend, there is a sign-up sheet in the foyer and a space for you to put what you plan to bring. Reminder, that Senior Saints are those members age 60 or over. Younger spouses of Senior Saints are welcome. If you have any questions, please see Keith Short or Larry Benson.

There will be a Baby Basket Shower
for

Jason & Tori Melhorn

They are expecting a baby boy.

The basket will be located in the foyer near the
kitchen.



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We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
 Morning Worship 9:00 am
 Bible Classes 10:15 am
 Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Wednesday
 Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May) 10:00 am
 Evening Bible Classes 6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
 Jim Hatfield
 Jon Holland
 Andy Mitchell
 Randall Phifer
 Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Larry Benson Andy Melton
 Michael Bowman Brian Melton
 Craig Buckner Alan Pepper
 Bob Hoover Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

June 5, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	238
	Bible classes	180
	PM worship	169
	Contribution	\$6,553.21

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	124
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)

GREETERS

*Please be at the door
 15 minutes prior to services!*



June 12
 Dorothy Stroop Dean Thompson

June 19
 Keith & Margaret Short

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!

We were honored by your presence!