



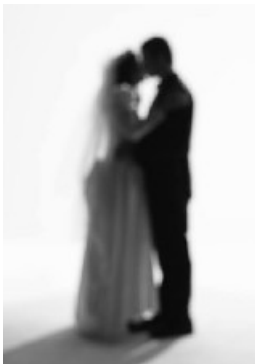
Love and Loving God

When my wife and I got married close to thirteen years ago and my parents asked us why we wanted to get married, we replied, "because we love each other." I will never forget the words that my dad told me that day. He said that we had a love, but that we really did not know what it meant to love each other, but that as the years went by, we would learn more and more of what it means to truly love one another. I confess that I did not completely understand what he meant at the time. However, thirteen years later, I think I am beginning to understand. Loving another person doesn't just mean that you have "positive feelings" toward them all the time. It means that whatever feelings you do have for another person, whether those feelings are positive or negative, you do not forsake that other person; you remain steadfast, loyal, and true regardless of what comes your way, and always seek the best for that person (as God defines "best") regardless of their circumstances.

This past week, I received e-mail from our web site in which the questioner stated, "I am not in love with my husband." It was sad for me to read that statement. Part of the reason that such a statement is made is that people in our society today simply do not understand what the word "love" truly means. And so, when they stop having the "feelings" of love, then they assume that they no longer "love" someone. Such does not have to be the case. I don't have tremendously wonderful feelings for my enemies, but I must love them nonetheless (Matthew 5:44-48). Could we not then love those who, while they do not engender the greatest of feelings, nevertheless are undoubtedly not our enemies? Surely if loving our enemies means being children of our Father in heaven, we can love those who are undoubtedly not our enemies.

Society, however, places a premium not upon this kind of love, but upon the kind of love that is defined by emotion only. If there is no emotion, then there is no love. It is no wonder that we see so many in our society today who seek for divorce due to "incompatibility." They are "incompatible" because they do not want to be compatible; because they do not want to do what it really takes to love someone else. Jesus' words on the subject ring loud and true, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6). I'm convinced that the reason Jesus said this was because if we can love our enemies, then we can certainly love our

spouse. There is, therefore, no excuse for divorce, save for the one Jesus himself gave (Matthew 19:9).



Not only, however, does society define love as mere emotion in the marriage relationship, but in many of our relationships today. One is said not to love his friend if he opposes something that his friend desires to have in his life and bad feelings result from that opposition.

One is said not to be loving his fellow man if one points out wrong behavior and incorrect attitudes in another person, due to the negative feelings that one has as a result from having to face one's own problems/mistakes. Even among those who claim to be Christians, if one does not project a positive, sappy, syrupy emotionalism toward his fellow Christian, then one is immediately labeled as being "unloving."

This "unloving" label often comes as a result of someone pointing out that another is either not living right, or is incorrect in some point of doctrine or religious practice. However, in such a situation, the "unloving" label begs the question, "Should one love his fellow man above God?" The immediate answer to that is, of course, no (Mark 12:30). However, is this not, in essence, what one is saying in response to someone who is seeking to resolve incorrect beliefs or behavior?

Love and Loving God (cont.)

"If you make me feel bad about my spiritual condition, or practices, then you just don't love me." What about loving God first? The very fact that God demands that we love Him above all others means that there are going to be some whose feelings that we have to hurt in order to please God. It doesn't mean that we intentionally want to hurt other people's feelings, or that we even like to hurt other people's feelings. It is merely a matter of doing what is right in the eyes of God.

One cannot sustain love as mere emotion and love God in the way that God demands that we love Him. Sooner or later, God's will is going to come into conflict with those emotions. If we take, as our foundation, love to be mere emotion, we will end up compromising God's will in the long run. However, if we understand that true love involves more than mere emotion, then when the emotions come, whether good or bad, we will stay with our commitment to God and His will. It is upon these grounds that Jesus can demand of us, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15; see also 1 John 5:3).

"Love ... Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...."

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)

Two Lions

A gape and evil passes 'tween the lips;
Deceitful roars entice to razor fingertips;
Each prance, each pounce reveals your true desire;
Consuming souls to share your 'ternal fire;
True enemy, seeking to devour.



A maw whose teeth are sharp but pure and clean;
A belly, not full with violence, but lean;
Righteous plans and peaceful, Your device;
True strength, You are, revealed through sacrifice;
A friend, whose mane enrobes in loving life.

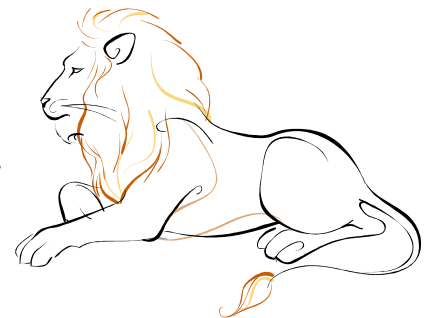


Two lions walk, each with palpable gait;
Upon one of the two we servilely wait.
One truly prowls the night to evilly snare.
The other invites the day to joyously share.
To which will we devote our soul to care?

Kevin Cauley

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8)

"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof." (Revelation 5:5)



Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 6/06/04

Morning	How To Make the Church Strong
Scripture	Ephesians 6:10-13
Evening	Q&A
Scripture	NA
Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	Minor Prophets: Micah

Weekly Record

Week of 5/30/04

Sunday Class	62
Sunday A.M.	100
Sunday P.M.	65
Wednesday	54
Contribution	\$1341.42
Budget	\$1760.00

Know Your Bible Books!

Ok, Ken told us this past Wednesday night that we need to work on knowing our books of the Bible (especially the Old Testament), so I thought I would help with this little puzzle. Enjoy! —Kevin

Books of the Bible Puzzle

Can you find the names of 25 books of the Bible in this paragraph? This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his johnboat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his column once. One woman judges the cup of tea to calm her nerves. There to spot, that's a fact. Some people will cially since the names are not necessarily answers we get, we are forced to admit, see some of them at the worst. Some- the difficulty we have. Those able to tations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help: Books like Timothy and Samuel occur without their numbers. And punctuations or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember, there are 25 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph.



(Answers in next week's bulletin.)

Kevin's Korner

Next weekend is our VBS/Friends and Family weekend! I trust that we have all worked hard at making these events a reality. Now, we must roll up our sleeves and put the finishing touches on our efforts! We have one more week to invite our friends and to get ready for this great weekend. Let's do our best to ensure that we make this weekend the utmost success that we know it can be.

You may have noticed from the sermon announcement area of the bulletin that we are having questions and answers tonight instead of next Sunday night. After checking the question box, we had a sufficient number of questions and I decided to do this just for this month due to all of the activities for which we are preparing next weekend. So if you are expecting a question to be answered from

the box, please be sure to be here tonight!

I want to commend the group who came to the nursing home last week to sing. There were several things that could have kept us away, but we didn't allow that to hinder our efforts. Evidently the air conditioning had gone out in that part of the building and so it was hot. Additionally, the weather was not exactly favorable for getting out, but you didn't let that stop you. In fact, it hailed on some of us while we were there and others on their way home. This kind of dedication to the tasks that we have before us will separate us from those other groups who allow minor inconveniences to interfere with their schedules. I appreciate each of your efforts to be there and hope to see you again on August the 29th when our next singing is scheduled. I thank you and appreciate you. I know the Lord appreciates it when we visit the

widows and widowers (James 1:27) and I know that those ladies and men at the nursing home appreciate you as well!

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

(James 1:27)

Elders:

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn
Quigley

Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,
Rusty Windle.

Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

News, Notes, and 'Nouncements

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Helen Bradley, Bill and Lucille Fort, Pat Foster, Pat Hill, Florene Neal.
- Remember our shut-ins: Curtis Hull, Edith Mischler, Art Roberts.
- We will have our regularly scheduled questions and answers tonight instead of next Sunday evening due to the activities of the week.
- It's here! Vacation Bible School is THIS WEEK! I'm sure that Brent and Rusty would welcome any last minute help that you would like to give. Cookies, juice boxes, and individually wrapped chips. There is also a teachers meeting briefly after services this evening.
- Friends and Family day is this Sunday. Jerry and I are still taking donations for the brisket if you would like to contribute. Also we have a big potluck lunch for which to prepare. Bring food that goes with BBQ!
- If you have a flyer that announces this weekends events, this would be a good week to post it in a public place: banks, restaurants, gas stations, etc. These will be great reminders for those whom you have already invited and the proprietors can take them down next week.
- The regular elders and deacons meeting is this evening after services. If you have something for that meeting please let one of these men know.
- The truck for the children's home is coming the week of June 14th. Please have your donated items before that day to be included in this six months donations.
- The pantry item for this week is Green Beans.



Welcome!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:..... 9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class: 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: 7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	June 6th, 2004	June 13th, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Bill Fort	Larry Elliott
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Matt Bassing
Scripture Reading:	John Gass	Brent Moore
Lord's Table	Brent Stevens	Bob Moore
	Rusty Windle	Hugh Atchley
(assist)	Jack Gentry	John Gass
	George Eddings	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	Hugh Atchley	Dan Hand
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Brent Stevens
Scripture Reading:	Bruce Foster	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Brandon Foster	George Eddings
	Dale Pinkley	Larry Elliott
Closing Prayer	Matt Bassing	Leon Duncan
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Clay Bozarth
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	John Gass
Invitation:	Ken Smith	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	Hugh Atchley	Leon Duncan

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