



CURRENT

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*Equipping the church to reach the world
for the glory of God through Christ*

LOVE & Missions

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"In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling." Exodus 15:13



1 John 4:19-20

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.



Love's as Warm as Tears

By C.S. Lewis



Love's as warm as tears,
Love is tears:
Pressure within the brain,
Tension at the throat,
Deluge, weeks of rain,
Haystacks afloat,
Featureless seas between
Hedges, where once was green

Love's as fierce as fire,
Love is fire:
All sorts--Infernal heat
Clinkered with greed and pride,
Lyric desire, sharp-sweet,
Laughing, even when denied,
And that empyreal flame
Whence all loves came.

Love's as fresh as spring,
Love is spring:
Bird-song in the air,
Cool smells in a wood,
Whispering "Dare! Dare!"
To sap, to blood,
Telling "Ease, safety, rest,
Are good; not best."

Love's as hard as nails,
Love is nails:
Blunt, thick, hammered through
The medial nerves of One
Who, having made us, knew
The thing He had done,
Seeing (what all that is)
Our cross, and His.



Learn much of the Lord Jesus. For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ. He is altogether lovely. Such infinite majesty, and yet such meekness and grace, and all for sinners, even the chief. Live much in the smiles of God. Bask in his beams. Feel his all-seeing eye settled on you in love, and repose in his almighty arms. Cry after divine knowledge, and lift up your voice for understanding. Seek her as silver, and search for her as for hid treasure.

—Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Knowing God's Love at church

To know the love of God, it is good to look at His love for those whom He chooses. In this age, the church—small “c,” meaning the local church—is the primary means by which Christ displays His loving magnificence. To know the church is to know the love of God.

Paul in his letter to the Ephesians wrote, “To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; in order that the manifold wisdom of God *(the uniting of various groups into the church, who do not naturally love each other)* **might now be made known through the church** to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 3:8-10 (NAS) *(italics and bold mine)*


The church is the grand display of the wisdom and love of God and the divine means to make His wisdom and love known. Christ's commitment is well understood in Matthew 16:18, "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will

build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.” (NAS) Christ is working to build the church so that the church can display the love of God, and carry the message of the love and glory of God.

It is in the church, as a body, that we can see, experience and know the love of God—the love of God in its fullness can most fully be comprehended in community. And community can only happen in long-term relationships. Think about your friendships. The ones in which you are known and you know others, only happen over the long haul. Good times and bad. Love, true love, can only happen and be known in *both*.

By exchanging the Bible's community-centered-knowing-God's-love approach to the Christian life for our culture's individualistic view of spiritual life, we have more than subtly skewed our conception of God. God has now been recast in the role of an individualistic divine therapist who assists the individual needy Christian in his or her personal quest for enlightenment and self-discovery, and Jesus has become a mere 'personal savior.'





“The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

Leviticus 14:18

It seems that the fix is to rediscover our role in the church and to recommit to God’s love and glory at the center of its community activity. We must re-learn that the love and glory of God and my quest for fulfillment and happiness are not mutually exclusive. In fact, my quest for love and happiness is best satisfied at the fountain of fellowship with Him and His local church.

The church is the primary means, in this age, by which Christ displays His glory and magnificence. This pageant is not only for the benefit of the observable created order, but also to the created heavenly beings in the invisible world. Because of Christ’s great love for the glory of the Father, and His commitment to the truthfulness and power of the gospel message to save men, He has chosen the church as the instrument by which all nations can observe and hear this message. This explains His activity in building the church. That’s why He stands in our midst to correct and encourage (Revelation 1, 2, 3). He is clearly open and transparent about His covenant love for the local church. The eyes of heavenly beings watch with rapt attention this love affair that Christ has with the church—***AND our love affair with Him and each other!*** We also must be unwaveringly committed to our local church—this local manifestation of the “whole-fulness [radiance, brilliance, luster] of the Divine character”, as Charles Bridges observes. When we love the church (the individuals in it), we love the apple of His eye, and we love Him.

“The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.” Psalm 33:5



PURSUE

Missions Conference 2012

By Jeff Loo

Each year at TACC we hold the Missions Conference to highlight what TACC is doing in missions around the world. Our theme this year is “Pursue.” It comes from Acts 20:24, “But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” Our desire is to pursue missions with a passion that values Christ more than our own lives.

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The conference will start on Thursday, May 18, with some of our missionaries attending small groups that meet on that night. It will end with a scrumptious catered lunch on Sunday, May 20th after the morning service. On that Friday

evening, we will have a time of prayer, to which everyone is invited. Saturday will be a packed day, starting with another one of Pastor Bob’s famous waffle breakfasts and followed by a service project. That evening, we’re having a catered dinner and ending with a few surprises.

Sunday morning, we will have missionaries in various Sunday school classes during the Sunday school hour. We also have the privilege of hearing Biola Professor Ken Berding speak during the worship hour. We are excited to see our plans coming together for the conference and hope to all of you join us in May!

This month @Taft Avenue...

Communion Sunday

Sunday, May 6

“All Things Family” and “Christianity 101” Classes Start

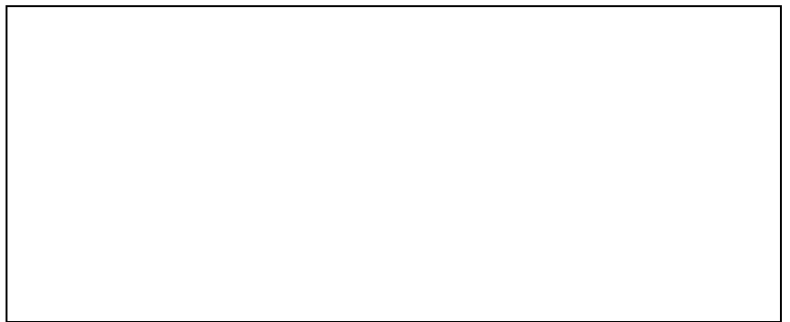
Sunday, May 6 @ 9:00am

Katie Koetsier’s Baby Shower

Sunday, May 6 @ 2:00pm

Missions Conference

Thursday, May 17-Sunday, May 20



“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34

