

September 1, 2019

**Love**  
By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*

*We offer Bible classes for all ages*

*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

One of the most well-known scriptures is the description of love's character and importance in **1 Corinthians 13**. The chapter ends with the words, "***But now faith, hope, and love remain – these three. The greatest of these is love***" (verse 13).

This verse is sometimes explained by the fact that faith will become sight and hope will become reality when the righteous reach heaven, but love will continue. This explanation fits the context of the chapter, which compares the lasting value of love with the temporary role of miraculous spiritual gifts given to Christians in the first century (verses 8-10).

Regardless, it is clear from verses such as **1 Corinthians 13:13** that love is of utmost importance. Consider some things God teaches about what *He* means when He commands love.

Note first of all that the command for love assumes such love is *properly directed*. Love can cause *harm* if it is misdirected.

**1 Timothy 6:10** teaches that "***the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.***" Diotrephes was rebuked for loving "***to have the preeminence***" (3 John 9).

**1 John 2:15** commands, "***Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him***" (also see **2 Tim. 3:2-4 & 4:10**).

*God-pleasing* love is directed toward

# Love

(Continued)

truth (**2 Thes. 2:10**), and is foremost directed toward God (**Matt. 22:37-38**) and others (**verse 39**).

God's description of loving Him and others differs from how many view love.

The love typically commanded in the New Testament is *agapao* or *agape* love (*Strong G25 & G26*). This love is deeper than an emotional attachment. It is a *choice* to value someone highly, and selflessly give something in response.

The love we must direct toward God and others is rooted in God's love for us (**1 John 4:7-11, 19**).

Love is such a primary part of God's character that Scripture says, "**God is love**" (**1 John 4:8**). Though we have grossly mistreated God, He chose to send His Son to die for us so we could be forgiven of our sins, which are foremost against Him (**Rom. 5:8**).

In consideration of what God has done for us, we have reason to love *Him*.

Love for God is deeper than just having a good feeling toward Him. In **John 14:15**, Jesus said, "***If you love me, keep my commandments***" (also see **1 John 5:3**).

Jesus emphasized the need to love God with our entire being in **Mark 12:30**. One who does so will obey God's commands, placing God's will above his or her own.

Genuine love for God leads to love for others (**1 John 4:20-21**).

Love for others is a *deliberate* choice to

serve others as we have the ability and opportunity. It involves putting others' needs ahead of one's own desires. Love is proven by actions (**1 John 3:17-18**).

Love for others is the root of treating others as we should (**Rom. 13:9-10**).

The impact of love is seen in **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**.

If we love others as we should, we will not be short-tempered with others, but be longsuffering. We will be kind and not be envious of others' good fortune. We won't be arrogant and boastful, seeking to exalt self above others (**verse 4**).

If we love others as we should, we won't treat others rudely, but will be respectful. We will consider others and not just self. We won't lash out in hasty anger at others. Furthermore, we won't keep a mental list of others' wrongs (**verse 5**).

If we love as we should, we won't delight in others' unrighteousness. Instead, we will rejoice "***with the truth***" (**verse 6**).

Love "***bears all things***," not gossiping about others. Love "***believes all things***," giving others the benefit of the doubt, instead of assuming the worst. Love "***hopes all things***," wanting the best for others. Love "***endures all things***," treating others well through hardships (**verse 7**).

Jesus perfectly exemplified love. We show our allegiance to Him by following His example of love (**John 13:34-35**).

May we faithfully love God and others.

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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## Words to Consider

***“For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him.” – Psalm 103:11-13***

***“O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people.”***  
– Psalm 105:1

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Betty P  
Mabel H  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Dody G  
Joe B  
Allen S (Cancer)  
Raymond & Maxine  
June H (Broken Pelvis)  
Randy S (Strokes)  
Mike & Family  
Ken & Chris F  
Larry S  
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)

## Daily Bible Reading

Sep. 1 – Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor. 9  
Sep. 2 – Psalms 123-125; 1 Cor. 10:1-18  
Sep. 3 – Psalms 126-128; 1 Cor. 10:19-33  
Sep. 4 – Psalms 129-131; 1 Cor. 11:1-16  
Sep. 5 – Psalms 132-134; 1 Cor. 11:17-34  
Sep. 6 – Psalms 135-136; 1 Cor. 12  
Sep. 7 – Psalms 137-139; 1 Cor. 13

***“Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in His commandments.” – Psalm 112:1***

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, September 1, 2019

Bible Study: Harold

Worship: Michael

Evening: Carlyle

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

John

### **Cleaning Building**

Misty

### **Prepare Communion**

Donna

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Sep. 28: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.**

*Study: Naomi's Advice (Ruth 3:1-7)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, September 8, 2019

Reading: Dan D

Announcements: Mike

Table: Larry

Serve: Mike

Dave

Dan H

Darrell

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Invitation: Larry

### **Anniversaries**

September 3 – Dan & Lovetta

### **Birthdays**

September 2 – Dan H