Braman Foundation of Charities

# DISCIPLESHIP A Devotional Magazine



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A Devotional Magazine

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Discover how
to grow in your
relationship
with the Holy
Spirit with
BFC's book,
Understanding
the Holy Spirit.

# Welcome

Welcome to the February issue of Discipleship.

Love! Love! Love!

With Valentine's Day so celebrated in America and around the world we wish to discuss love. We will look at three types of love: Eros, Philos, and Agape love. In this issue our authors: R.W. Braman, A.B. Simpson, and Charles Spurgeon will share their thoughts on love.

"Always remember Christ's most important message from Matt 22:36-39 "You shall love the Lord Thy God with all thy heart, mind, and soul and the second is like the first you shall love your neighbor as you love yourself." "Upon these two commands rest all the laws and prophets."

In those 3 verses Christ lays out the command to love as He loves us! Examine your heart and renew your mind. Do you love your enemies? Can you pray for them in face of your greatest difficulty?

Remember Christ loves you in your deepest sin nature and He forgave you as He went and hung to his death! Can you love as Christ so loves you?

It can be difficult, but with Christ, "All things are possible." Lean in and love those that pursue you. Do not waver. He knows your hurt but love conquers all fear!

Finally, if you are married, separated, or divorced, learn to forgive your spouse and love. In today's society, as difficult as current conditions are, grow in forgiveness so His light, His love will shine through you!

Be of peace and love	e!		

The 2022 Scripture:

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with eagles, they will run and be weary, they will walk and not faint."

#### BFC Devotional Magazine

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# The Sermons of Richard W. Braman



In these sermons of RWB, with this month's theme of Love, meditate on the love of Christ. Spend time, set apart to really explore the love of Christ! Try to abide, not an intellectual study but "be" with Christ. Abide in words God has used through the authors that the BFC writers have featured this month.

Feel the love of Christ as his spirit reaches out to you to comfort you, to tell you, "I love you". Then as you realize this truth spread this love to those in your life that God has planted around you.

#### An Excerpt from RWB Sermons

"Anything to bring me to separation, to death, for a life of full fellowship with God and Christ."

Come and cast this self-life and flesh-life at the feet of Jesus. Then trust Him. Do not worry yourselves with trying to understand all about it, but come in the living faith that Christ will come into you with the power of His death and the power of His life; and then the Holy Spirit will bring the whole Christ -- Christ crucified and risen and living in glory -- into your heart.



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#### RWB Sermons

# Binding Love

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- John 13:34-35

In writing to his friends in the church in Philippi, Paul expresses himself with the lovely tenderness and warmth of feeling. Surprisingly so. Partly, because in this same letter he's going to be very critical of the people of this church, condemning their clicks and the rivalry they have. Partly too - and this from our personal point of view- we do not normally think of him as a warmhearted person. But listen to him. "I hold you all in my heart," he writes. And again: "I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. I hold you in my heart-I yearn for you- with the affection of Christ Jesus. My brethren, whom I love and long for - my beloved."

Normally when we talk or speak of love we get involved in human emotion. First, let me call your attention to Paul's reference to Jesus when he says; "With the affection of Christ Jesus." Affection – is that a word you would use about Jesus? Yet Paul uses it, without qualification or explanation. It appears in the Revised Standard Version of the Bible; it appears in older modern translations as well as Moffat, Weymouth and Phillips. Apparently, Paul uses the word just as we use it and it's what he means to say about

Jesus. And why not? Would we want an ascetic Christ shorn of all emotions, pure cold mind but no warmth of heart?

In our image of him we have often robbed him of the ordinary and wonderful human emotions. Affection. It's a good word. "With the affection of Jesus Christ." Jesus had friends among outcast. He was very close to children. The reason? I think it might largely be the warmth of his personality-"the affection of Jesus Christ." Paul also had this warmth, as we should remind ourselves. "I hold you all in my heart-I yearn for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ." Note in Paul's letters, how many people he mentions. In the 16th chapter of the letter of Romans, Paul greets a host of friends by name. Paul loved these people; they loved him. He would naturally hold them in his heart. He would yearn after them with affection.

Paul was not a cold aloof person; he was a warm, affectionate friend. Take a look now at the first Century churches. They consisted of people who knew each other 12 rather well. They didn't always get along with each other—that we know.

Paul called them "saints" but some of them were rather unstable and unruly saints. Nonetheless their churches were fellowships. Consider the church at Philippi. Troublesome as its internal difficulties were, it managed to survive, not because it had a firm hold upon doctrinal truths but because there was love among the people. There is strength in fellowship that cannot be derived from rational belief alone. What should this mean to us? What about our churches today? Isn't it true of us too that where we are truly effective, our effectiveness rose out of the fact of fellowship? And that if we are ineffective, it is because we are not sufficiently joined in the communication and bonds of love and affection-that is, are not sufficiently of fellowship?

We certainly cannot have fellowship together if we are constantly at each other's throats, condemning criticizing each other. True fellowship will come as a result of each one of us accepting Jesus Christ into our hearts and lives as our personal Savior and Lord. After we have done this, Christian love will result and that will bind us together in true Christian fellowship. And I do not care what you try to bring about fellowship- until we have done this there will not be true fellowship. It sounds simple but there will be ups and downs, there will be disagreements and differences of opinions, however there will be understanding and consideration for each other views because Christ is in

I dare say that this church or any church cannot exist for very long unless the people of the church have this Christian love. How does the church seek to mediate the love of God? And to whom does it speak? It seems to me that the apostle is capable to distinguish between states in the development of the church. There is a mentality which needs the love of God as affection, permissiveness, healing. There is another mentality, which needs love as the structure of authority, the strength of encouragement and warning. Both of these loves recognize the creaturely character of the church and its need of sanctification. It must be the kind of community in which love supports the creature and moves him towards maturity.

Why do Christians have so much to say about love? We do, you know. "Beloved let us love one another." Not just let us be friendly, or tolerant, or agreeable, but "Let us love one another." We read these biblical words, unabashed and unembarrassed. Someone to whom the vocabulary of Christianity is strange might wonder about our seeming imprudence or forwardness. We would, of course, quickly reply that we don't have romantic love in mind. Yet we do mean much more than carnal good feeling. The mischievous notion, and it is modern, that to be 13 born again is merely to have a new relation to God, ignores the fact that it is impossible to have a new relation to God without also having a new relation to people. The very first green tendril of love that sprouts in the human heart, fumbles its way immediately toward other human beings.

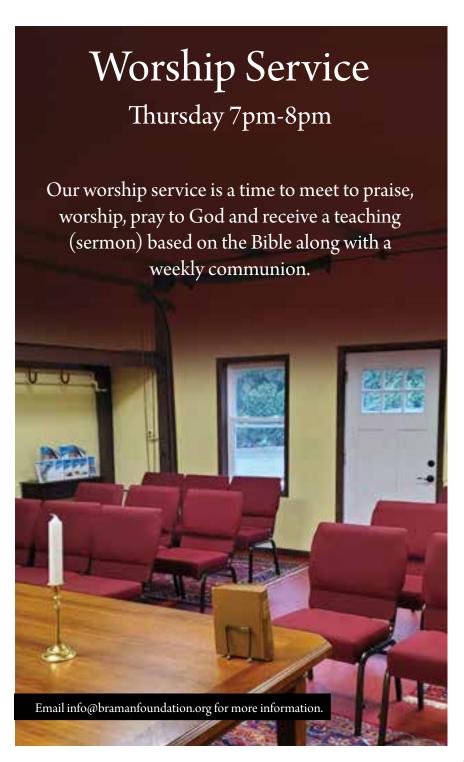
We cannot possibly love God and not have feelings toward other people. Perhaps we say that we love God but do we really mean it in our hearts? If we do love him, our feelings, our concerns, our actions towards others will change and the feeling within us will be something that is indescribable. We will start to find that joy and peace and happiness we talk so much about.

Why do we say so much about love? First, because Christianity understands the nature of man: man must love and be loved. God intended it to be this way. The churches have been repeating these words long before they became part of our general vocabulary through modern It's rather psychiatry. interesting, however, that our present stress upon, "loving and being loved" coincides with the popular clarity of modern psychiatry and it's insights. This new scientific discipline has helped us to see what our own gospel means. We should recognize that love will always involve emotion, in that we must expect to have a warmth of feeling for other people if we are to love them. Even Paul, who had so many unhappy limitations in what he said about human love, spoke very feelingly about his relationship to those people at Philippi. We would do well to follow him here.

Christianity knows the importance of affection. Affection will obviously be differently expressed in different relationships. But fundamentally, we need affection in some way – in every relationship. We read in I John 4, "if we love one another, God dwelleth in us."

Everywhere the devout are asking where God is— in a world like ours. With wars going on, with the racial tension in our country, where is God? It is an old, old question. The mocking have asked it in derision, "Where is thy God?" The disturbed have asked it in perplexity,





"Where is now my God?" No one answer is neither enough, nor any answer easy. But John knew this: "wherever love is, there God is." Where the sorrowing mourn their dead in loving tenderness, where parents say goodbye to the children to save them, where affection watches the imperiled, there God is. Wherever an ethical goodwill mourns man's inhumanity to man and plans, beyond moral chaos, for a kind and righteous world; wherever broken hearts and lives cry, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do." There God is. Whenever the estranged pray for reconciliation, whatever the hurt refuse 14 to hate and compassion forgets enmities, there God is.

We don't need to search the skies for God. He is nearer than that: "if you love one another, God dwelleth in us." Only if there is a bond of love can a man be in an effective relationship with another person. Communication between persons-how can it be accomplished unless there is warmth of feeling that allows people to speak to each other sincerely and to listen with concern? A transition of some sort can take place, no matter how people feel about each other. But the "gift without the giver is bare." We Christians are very much concerned about the effectiveness of our churches. Our world, we say, desperately needs what the churches can give in faith and in service.

But we can meet the world's needs only as we are strong. We need to remember the church is you and I, it isn't someone or something else. What we are, what we make ourselves through God's help, the church is. The church is only effective as we are effective. What will

make us strong? I'll tell you: "Love." We have discovered this in our life as families. Every family bound together in love is strong and makes an effective contribution to the neighborhood and the community because it is rooted in love.

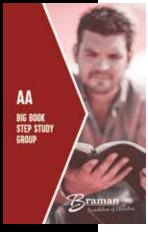
A man and his wife were at an orphanage where they hoped to adopt a child. One boy appealed to them in particular. After they explained to the small child the many things they would give him and how much he would be grateful for, he said, "if you have nothing to offer except a good home, toys and other things most kids have-why then, I would just as soon stay here." "What on earth do you want besides those things that we mentioned," the woman asked. Little boy replied. "I want someone to love me." Many times we consider all the material advantages of life for our children but the most important, and it definitely is the most important, we leave out love.

Love also makes our churches strong. The Church serves the world to the degree that they are true fellowshipsand here in Fultonham Union Church too - we have little to offer as a church. Our church or any church is neither a card file list of interested families, nor rows of people neatly arranged in pews on Sunday morning. A church is "the people of God"-a fellowship. And where we are not yet a fellowship we must become one. Using whatever words we ourselves might choose -for we would hardly use Paul's-we must be able to say to our fellow Christians: "I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Married Happiness

by Richard Braman (6/12/1984)

- 1. Never stop courting. Marriage gives you a chance to court without interruptions.
- 2. Never let romance wane. The benediction at the wedding does not end romance. It only gives you a chance to be permanently romantic.
- 3. Never allow both of you to get angry at the same time.
- 4. Never talk AT one another, either alone or in company.
- 5. Never speak loudly to one another unless the house is on fire.
- 6. Never find fault unless it is perfectly certain a fault has been committed and always speak lovingly.
- Never taunt a mistake.
- 8. Never make a remark at the expense of each other. This is manners.
- 9. Never part for a day without loving words to think of during the absence.
- 10. Never meet without a loving welcome.
- 11. Never let the sun go down upon any anger or grievance.
- 12. Never let any faults you have committed go by until you have frankly confessed it and asked for forgiveness.
- 13. Never forget the happy hours of early love.
- 14. Never dwell on what might have been but make the best of what is.













# Weekly Meetings at Queensbury Facility

## **LOCATION**

**Braman Foundation of Charities Conference Room and Community Room**49 Glenwood Ave. Queensbury, NY 12804

Phone: (518) 636-5930

Email: info@bramanfoundation.org

### Discipleship

Every Tuesday, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

In the BFC Defined Discipleship Training literature, we examine the state of the church in America today. We spend time with the teachings of the great writings of: A.W Tozer, Thomas A Kempis, & A.B Simpson. There is time spent on the effects of Christ centered mediation, its scriptures and the significance of purifying the ego. We discuss regeneration, salvation, daily repentance and coming into a closer relationship with our creator. Finally we speak on a lifetime of devotion to God and Christ. Recommit your life as a Christ follower and continue your journey.

### Worship Service

Every Thursday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Starting in September 2021, our worship service is a time to meet to praise, worship, pray to God and receive a teaching (sermon) based on the Bible along with a weekly communion.

## Bible Study

Every Friday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Joining a small group is the best way to experience the incredible community here at BFC.

#### Healing & Restoration

Every Saturday, 10:00am - 11:00am

As a brief history, we will explore the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Founded in June, 1935 the A.A. Program has helped millions recover from alcoholism. The essence and the backbone of the Program is the 12 Step Method. Healing & Restoration not only uses the 12 steps in a Christ centered format, it teaches CBT, meditation and has a focus on the body with nutrition and exercise.

#### AA Meetings

Big Book Step Study Every Saturday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm 12 Step Women's Group Every Wednesday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm Big Book Step Study Every Thursday, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

The purpose of this meeting is to help alcoholics fully recover by the studying, discussing, and practicing of the twelve steps as they are laid out in the Big Book. It has been our hard-learned experience that other methods did not work with us. Some of us have tried other methods and our results were disastrous, until we looked at the basic and simple approach the Big Book offers.

#### RWB Sermons

# Love with No Conditions

"He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him."

- Hebrews 7:25

Some people have a prejudice against the word 'save'. This word may be like an old coin that has been battered and become misshapen by rough usage, but nevertheless is pure gold, recognized by the dealer in precious metals. Let us not scorn the word

"It is so easy to persuade men that the amount of forgiveness they can receive is measured by the quality of repentance they can offer."

Christ is able to save. From what? Our text today suggests an answer to this question: it suggests that the saved man is moving toward God; the men who is not saved is moving away from God. The ultimate in salvation is being united with God. When the prodigal left home he was not saved; he was headed the wrong way; when he turned toward his father's house he was on the road to salvation.

There are many experiences that a man has when he is moving away from God. Here are some of them.

He is affected with a sense of guilt. There are all sorts of guilt, false guilt, repressed guilt, guilt that is a feeling of inferiority, guilt because you have not been true to yourself, guilt because you have not

served well your fellow man, guilt because you have hurt God. The form that guilt takes depends much upon the nature of the person involved. When a man moves toward God, Christ lifts the sense of guilt. Christ is able to lift the burden of guilt.

Movement away from God is movement towards darkness. Day by day the lights go out. Candles of idealism sputter and fail. Men walk in the plume of failure, futility, and frustration. All things begin to lose their luster. Life itself may become a dark alley. Jesus is able to save a man from the oncoming darkness of despair, even death. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world". He turns men to God by the attractive brilliance of his light.

In movement away from God love diminishes and finally disappears. A man 41 called upon a minister by night in despair because he was becoming loveless. "I do not love my children, I do not love my wife; I do not love my friends; I am becoming like a nut." These were his actual words. To live in a loveless world is separation from God who is a god of love. Christ is able to restore love to a man's heart.

Lost is a word that Jesus used to describe separation from God. Some men are lost

like sheep that have wandered from the fold. Some are lost like coins that have fallen into a dark corner. Some men are lost because they have deliberately left the house of light and love and joy. "Lost" has been called the most tragic word in the English language. There are so many places where men get lost-lost in pride, lasting ambition, lost in envy, lost in greed, lost in their own obstinacy. Christ is able to reclaim the lost. All sorts of things happen to us when we move away from God, in fact, nothing seems to go right. Problems and conditions come to us and we have no one to turn to for help and guidance. We are actually alone and to be alone is a feeling that none of us enjoy. When we are moving away from God, I also believe that we imagine things are happening to us, our emotions run away from us and our thinking and conception of right and wrong have vanished. These are but a few of the experiences that come to men who are moving away from God.

What is this great salvation? It is much more than we have implied so far. It is often known as relief from bearing a great burden. A burden that is so heavy it holds us down and we are unable to rise above. It is walking in the light, which shineth more and more onto the perfect day. When we are in darkness everything is black, we cannot see where we are going. "We love because he first loved us". If we could only love one another as Christ loves us, all of the misunderstanding, all of the prejudices, all of the fighting, all of the wars in our world would end and this piece that we are all concerned about would finally come to pass. Love isn't necessarily the showing of affection by physical acts, such as kissing or hugging but it can be a concern that is so deep that it moves us to show our concern

by some kind of action.

Salvation is the prodigal's joy of living in the Father's house after experience as a swineherd.

Now the word "uttermost" becomes emphatic in our text. "To the uttermost", reads the King James version; the new English Bible says, "absolutely" and "fully 42 and completely" writes J.B. Phillips. "To the uttermost", saved forever and ever, for this life and the next. "Absolutely" forgiven, our sinfulness is separated from us as far as the east is from the west. "Fully and completely" clean, like new fallen snow.

"Love with no conditions", this phrase comes from Dr. Paul Tourmer's book, "Guilt and Grace". He writes, "in every age, men have projected precisely the same idea on God. They picture God as one who loves them only on condition that they are good, and who refuses them his love if they become guilty. Fear of losing the love of God- this is the essence of our human problem and of psychology. Even a person, who does not believe in God, trembles to lose his love. This false idea of God, still so widespread among his people is just what Jesus came to remove. He shows us that God loves us unconditionally, loves us not for are goodness or are virtues but because of our misery and guilt."

You don't have to know theology to accept the love of God through Jesus Christ.

You do not have to agonize in repentance for your sins in order to receive this great salvation.

You need not bring any merit of your

own. You need bring no achievement, no accomplishment, no payment, no works, no service. Christ is able to save without these.

Is it not necessary for men to forgive others their trespasses against them, before God will forgive them? For we read in Matthew 6:14-15, "for if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses". Will men who are moving away from God, children of darkness, on the road of lovelessness, do this? This is the road they will take after they have turned, not before. Saved men will seek to forgive their brothers, not unsaved men.

Christ is able to save to the uttermost, without conditions.

How is it possible for Christ to save us without our fulfilling certain conditions? That is a question worth asking and worth answering, but that is not the point of this sermon. To know how Christ saves us is not a condition of salvation. He is able to save us without that.

Martin Luther, an impetuous man, driven to despair by the feeling of guilt, after vainly plunging into penances and mortifications, discovered afresh in his turn that salvation is not earned, but it is a gift of God, free and offered in advance to the sinner, and that it is sufficient to accept it by faith. From his cry of relief, the Reformation was born, like an explosion, at a time when the church was insisting on works, merits, and indulgences, all of which laid the cost of salvation upon man's own souls."

In the Old Testament story, when a plague of snakes had come upon Israel wandering in the wilderness, the people were saved from death by the serpents' stings by looking upon a serpent of brass sat upon a pole. This is recorded in Numbers 21: 8-9, "And the Lord said to Moses, make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent, and set it on a pole; and if a serpent bit any man, he would look at the bronze serpent and live." Jesus referred to the story in these words, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." "Look and live", was an old gospel song that carried the message of the Old Testament symbol and the saving power of Christ.

Look and Live! It just doesn't seem possible. But all things are possible with God. "Jesus is able to save to the uttermost."

# Lecture Series

Coming Soon to the Braman Foundation YouTube Channel



LECTURES TO INCLUDE

Understanding Our Divine Nature
The Christian's Walk
Christ's Greatest Command

SEARCH BRAMAN FOUNDATION OF CHARITIES



BE THE FIRST TO KNOW WHEN THEY ARE LIVE!

# February 2022

# February 1, 2022 Tuesday

#### LET GO OF YOUR SIN NATURE

"Forget the past, do not recall to mind the former things, behold I am doing something new. Now it springs forth; can you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and bring rivers in the desert."

- Isaiah 43:18

re you a child of God, forgiven from your sin nature? Are you confessing daily and growing deeper in your regeneration, your salvation? Then do not recall the sins of your past. Reconcile to all those in which you harbor resentment and lack of forgiveness. How are yea able to walk in love if you walk in bitterness toward others that have wronged you? Why do you play this weak-willed victim mentality? The Lord has commanded you to be strong and courageous, to be not afraid; to walk in love, give in love and forgive in love. Ask the Lord to reveal the reason why you are not experiencing the full measure of His Grace. Then listen and obey. The spiritual path is a path of discipline, the road less traveled. This is the path that does not conform to the standards of this world



# February 2, 2022

#### Wednesday

#### **OUR GREAT GOD**

"I will go before you and make your crooked paths straight. I will break in pieces the doors of bronze that block you and cut asunder the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ... I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I gird you, though you do not know me, that men may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other"

- Isaiah: 45:2-8

he There is nothing greater that our God. Money, work, my life, this world pales to our God. It is this power that can overcome any problem, any limitation, any struggle God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob. The God of Christians, Muslims, Hebrews, Hindus, the God of Budda. Who am I to deny such a vastness? Oh Lord help our unbelief. Today when faced with decision, when filled with fear, when resentment enters in let me call on you. Today as I smell the flowers and enjoy your creation let celebrate you. Today when I deny your love let fall to my knees and repent and call out" "You are my great God and Great is Thy name" Amen.

## February 3, 2022

#### Thursday

#### **REJOICE!**

"This is the day which the day Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it"

- Psalm: 119:24

Rejoice!!!!! Today is the day!!!!
Today is are only day!!! Love the
Lord!!! Love your neighbor!! Love
yourself!!!!

## February 4, 2022 Friday

#### IS CHRIST WORKING IN YOU?

"And I am sure the he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

- Philippians 1: 6

et us praise God for the work that He has done with in us!!! Let us be grateful as followers of Christ that He will continue to work with us until our day of returning. We know that He is was and shall always be the One that we turn to, that we surrender to and that we yield our will to. It is our great God that controls the seas, that has made the rolling mountains that at anytime may with draw this world into Himself. When will I realize that I am here today and gone tomorrow? That although I may think my life so important in an instant it can be gone on this earth!! Have I loved? This is the work that Christ is doing in us. Christ is teaching us to Love Him, to Love others and to love ourselves. Am I following Christ? Do I hear the inner call?

# February 5, 2022 Saturday

#### PRESSING TOWARDS THE GOAL

"Not that I have already obtained this... but I press on to... Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but the one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and strain- ing forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 3:12-14

It is so obvious throughout Paul's writings that he was on a mission with few distractions. Before his conversion he killed and many Christians and had many imprisoned. Yet Christ used him anyway!!! What forgiveness. Paul was able to move forward, forgetting what lies behind, and be useful in building the kingdom. A man who murdered Christians. He repented after his conversion on the road to Damascus. The Lord used him mightily. If the Lord used a man like Paul I am certain He would use many of us. Press on ward to the upward call in Christ. Repent, give your sins to God and ask Him to use you in your world. Stop dwelling on what is WRONG or what you have done or limitations you may have and move forward!! Get on FIRE!!!!! There is much work to do for our Kingdom!!!!! Time is wasting!!!!! GET UP AND GET GOING!!!!!



# February 6, 2022 Sunday

#### **GOD IS WITHIN YOU**

"Being asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God was coming he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say,'Lo, here it is' or "There" for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you"

- Luke 17:20-21

How many religions have for centuries looked for the sign of God coming? How many pray to a God in a belief that He is not within us. Here Christ is telling us that God is within you. That you have and shall always be made in His image. In Genesis 1: 26 "Moses writes," Let us make man in our own image..." Once we have made this inner decision to be born again we have that connection and are reunited to this truth. Stop trying and instead ease into this truth that you are made in the image of God. That you can understand this truth by just asking, by seeking, by going with in. God is within you. Yes we sin. Praise be to Christ that He has gone before us to rectify us to God. So repent and go deeper. Repent and know you are Love. Repent and love your neighbor. Repent and love God. Repent and love yourself. So just as suddenly Christ tells us that Love is the answer to all Scripture, (See Matt 22:36), He tells us in the above scripture that God is with in. Another vital verse

#### February 7, 2022

#### Monday

#### **GOD GOES BEFORE US**

"No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and any tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the Lord, And their vindication is from me."

- Isaiah 54:17

Tt is not my world but the Lord's. This Lis not my life but the Lord's. Allow the Lord to go before you and fight all your battles. So many times I believe that I am in control or that I must make this or that happen. As if some how I can direct the Holy Spirit to set my agenda. In America we have courses in teaching self-will. MY WILL BE DONE. Constant self-improvement to improve upon that which God has made. I need to be more humble. Less Pride. Less in charge and to be led and inspired by the Holy Spirit. I must ask the Lord to go before me, that I must yield to most inner tendency to direct the Lord in what to do. When did I decide what is best for God? When did I become the director? Again and again I am reminded that I came in this world with nothing and I will leave with nothing. My life is here today and gone tomorrow. What is most important is: Did I Love!

February 8, 2022

Tuesday

# A PSALM OF FEARLESS TRUST IN THE LORD

"The Lord is my Light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread... My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident. one thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock!!! And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me... And I will sing for joy and I will offer sacrifices, yes I will sing PRAISES to the Lord."

- Psalm 27

#### February 9, 2022

#### Wednesday

#### TRUST IN THE LORD

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

- Scripture: Proverbs 3: 5&6 "

Tow many times, as we look back, can we identify plans that we have made, yet these plans did not manifest into reality? As we think about those plans: Of those plans is it great that these plans did NOT occur? In other words how much better is your life now? Remember you surrendered to the Lord. He is Lord over your life. Therefore the Lord is opening doors and closing doors whether you know it or not. The Lord is making your paths straight. This is part of our salvation. Praise Him! We must learn to cooperate more and more with the Lord through daily surrender of self. Let go and allow your paths to unfold with little effort. This is a higher and much easier way to live life. Remember you invited the Lord to be "LORD" of your life. Do not be surprised as His power is at work in you and on your behalf. REJOICE!!!!



## February 10, 2022 Thursday

#### NO FEAR

"Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's...'"

- 2 Chronicles 20:15

Tany times, we may feel called to Many times, .... move forward with a project or a thought. Yet we hold back and hesitate. We may say to ourselves: "What if I fail?" "What if I go broke?" or "What will they think of me?" Ask yourself the question and stop and listen: "Is this idea or action or plan from the Lord? Or is it an impulsive action through self? Now wait and listen. Do you feel the inspiration to move forward? If so, do it knowing you have committed this plan to the Lord and the Holy Spirit has inspired it. Remember the Greatest Command: LOVE!!! If what you're doing is about love and your inspired through thoughtful prayer and reflection then move forward, commit the plan to the lord and Trust!!!! Let go and Let God!!! Your life is not your own.

# February 11, 2022 Friday

#### **CONTINUE TO LOVE**

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

hrist continues to ask us to Love one another. We hear this even in the media today that we need to love one another. Yet many of us cannot love as Christ loved us because America is no longer a Christian nation. Is It? What is this love that Christ refers to in so much of his messages? Where does it come from and do you experience this love in your life? This love is a divine love possibly the love a new mother would have for her new-born. A love that has no condition. This is love that is inspired from the divine. I love you regardless of who you are, what color you are, what race, what creed, a non-believer or whatever. This is a love that goes way beyond family boundaries. This is how Christ loves us today. A love filled with forgiveness, understanding and true caring. We all yearn for unconditional love in our lives. Am I walking in forgiveness? Have I let go of bitterness and resentment? Is fear dominating my consciousness? Am I my thinking of others and how I may help them?



## February 12, 2022 Saturday

#### **HE CARES**

"Casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you."

- 1 Peter 5:7

egardless of where you are, what **K**you have done or where you have been we serve a God that cares that loves us without condition. There is none that you can depend on like Christ. Think about this: Even your most intimate relationship your wife, your husband, sister, brother, mother, father or friend will leave you someday. However, Christ will never leave you, forsake you or let you go. Ask and Seek. Cast all your burdens at His Cross. All your burdens. Let your security be rooted in the presence of the Holy Spirit. This journey is short. You were in the Spirit before you came here and soon you will return? Do you know where you are going? Did you know that this realm is only a small part of your journey? Get acquainted with Christ now. He will soon be your best friend. For you came here with nothing and soon you will leave with nothing. Ask this question: "Why am I here?" Wait in silence and listen for the answer. He cares.

# February 13, 2022 Sunday

#### PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

"Therefore...the prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

- James 5: 16

et us pray for one another. Whether friend or foe, whether male or female, whether rich or poor, whether democrat or republican, pray. Pray for those you really do not like and ask for blessings in their lives. Pray for those that persecute you, those that have harmed you and those in which despise you. Go beyond your world and pray for your local government leaders, your state leaders and finally the leaders of your nation. Pray for those that are sick and those that are suffering. Pray for those of us filled with pride and those among us that are homeless. Pray for a changed heart and a renewed mind. Pray! Pray! Pray!



# February 14, 2022 Monday

#### LET HEART BE WITH THE LORD

"The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

- Psalm 118:14

Taybe right now you're struggling. Maybe right how, perhaps you have been given a bit of bad news. You may have been given really bad news. Your life is stable. Your happy. All the bills are paid. You're saving money. Kids seem well ETC. Regardless of your circumstances praise the lord. If your depressed praise the Lord!! Lift your hands and shout to the Lord: "I love you Lord!!! I thank you for my life and I thank you for this day." If circumstances are well give thanks!! It matters little what are circumstances are for IF we are established in a right relationship with the Lord we turn to the lord and give thanks for He is our salvation and our true source of goodness. For soon some of us are leaving this realm. Are you ready? Again, I say, "We came in this world alone and will leave alone. All the homes, the cars, the family difficulty, the education, all the stuff that occupies our minds will not mean a thing. Get acquainted with the Lord!! How am I loving others today!!!!

#### February 15, 2022

#### Tuesday

#### **COME HOME**

"Return O faithless sons, declared the Lord; For I am a master to you, And I will to you unto Zion."

- Jeremiah 3:14

The Lord is always waiting upon our return. Those who have left the fold have returned to the world. Those who have based their worth on worldliness. Those of us that measure ourselves and judge ourselves through comparing to one another. The Lord is saying to us, "Come home I will take care of you. I love you. Regardless of what you have done. Repent and come home." Is Christ the lord over your life? Or do you still run the show because "things" seem to be going well? Perhaps you suffered an abuse and "Blame" God. Remember He is waiting. Whenever you are ready He will be there. Give your life to Christ and if you did back slide just come home. It's okay. Repent.

## February 16, 2022 Wednesday

#### **GOD IS ON OUR SIDE**

"If God is for us, who is against us?"

- Romans 8:31

now that if you are struggling, depressed, in a valley or you just are up against a wall, God is there for you. God is all in all, omnipresent. God knows of your struggles yield to Him. Do not forget that God loves you. Perhaps you are learning a lesson and struggling with it. God allows these difficulties. Yield to Him, come home. He is ever waiting with arms wide open. God loves you. Perhaps you are struggling with relationships and are hurt. Give this to God and remember if God be for us who is against us. God is was and shall ever be. When you are alone and lonely, crying and afraid, sick and in bed, or joyful on top of the world, God is there for you. God is your best friend. God is!!!

#### February 17, 2022

#### Thursday

#### COURAGE

"Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, nei- ther be discouraged for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

- Joshua 1:9

The spiritual path is not a path for the pathetic and weak. We must recall that we do not dwell in this body as this body; only that this body is an instrument that we use to express through in this earthly realm. Do not get used to this body nor think this realm is home. You must come to the realization that you are a spiritual being made in the likeness of God, passing through here. For some reading this now you will soon shed this earthly body and move on into the next realm. This is a naturally occurring event. Death of the physical body is not death but rather an opportunity to experience your heavenly home. Do not think now that heavenly realms are the end of your salvation. No! There will be continued work there also. Did not Christ say, "In my house there are many rooms therefore I go to prepare one for you." Therefore, I say to you NOW: get acquainted with God!!! Stop wasting time and get down to the business of knowing your true nature. Stop worrying about what you shall eat, your home, your car etc. Where are your priorities? Be Strong

# February 18, 2022 Friday

#### PUT AWAY THE OLD SELF

"You lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God, has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth."

- Ephesians 4:22-24

rowing in our relationship with I the Lord we are seeking to shed those tendencies, the strongholds, the character flaws and shortcomings which block us from being closer to the Lord. In other words, we are seeking a deeper relationship in Love. Love of God, our neighbor and self. Yes even self for we are made in His likeness. However it is usually a form of selfishness rooted in self-centeredness that must be shed to further our progress. This is a yearning to have more and more of Godliness and less and less of self. Seek to overcome and ask to grow closer. Say," Help me Lord to grow closer to you and show me how to overcome these tendencies which impede my true nature in you."

# February 19, 2022 Saturday

#### **GOD, OUR GOD IS BLESSING US**

"God our God blesses us. God blesses us. That all the ends of the earth may fear Him."

- Psalm 67

Tt is strange how most of us continue **⊥** to run our lives separate from God. We use God, worship Him in a church, temple or mosque, yet we ignore the blessings God is trying to yield to us. How often do we go about our business of each day not asking or seeking God to guide our thoughts, govern our actions, and help with our troubles? We identify with the problems of life, walk in the difficulty, then tell those around us what a challenging time we are having in life. It is our own fault that we struggle, ignoring the blessings of life and not seeking the riches of our God. We must learn the Divine skill of asking and seeking God in all we do. He can supply Thee with all Thy needs always. We have not because we ask not. We lack because we expect lack, limitation and identify with the evil and darkness about us. Remember God is all in all and seeks to bless us in all forms always.



February 20, 2022

Sunday

# THROUGH CHRIST DEATH HOLDS NO POWER

"That through death He might destroy him that had the power of death."

- Hebrews 2:14

riend, rejoice for in Christ death  $oldsymbol{\Gamma}$  has lost its power. You are but a blink of the eye in the seat of Christ. In one moment you face your demise and in another you are awake in eternity with your King. Are you ready? What unconfessed sin do you ignore? Do you realize that Christ has forever destroyed the power of death for those who are in Christ Jesus? For others who is to say? But for you the follower of Christ you will be in eternity. Oh Death where is Thy sting!!! Absent from the body and present with the Lord. The curse of death has been forever destroyed!! Rejoice my friend rejoice!!!

February 21, 2022 Monday

#### THE VEIL HAS BEEN REMOVED

"Behold the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom."

- Matthew 27:51

There are several lessons gleaned blood removed the veil of the temple making God accessible to all who through Christ believe. The law, the day of atonement, was destroyed as Christ had come to fulfill the law. The annual ceremony was thus abolished. There is no longer a "holy of holiness " in the temple. Christ had torn wide open the temple veil for all to see. Our bleeding Lord has held the key "for no man shutteh what He hath opened." Let us thus enter in with Him into the heavenly places, and sit with Him there til our common enemies be made His footstool.



#### February 22, 2022

#### Tuesday

#### **FORGIVENESS**

"bearing with one another and forgiving each other whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."

- Colossians 3:13

↑ re you obedient in your discipleship with Christ? Recall how the Lord has been with you all the way in your sin nature, your conversion and now your regeneration. Did not Christ forgive you? Then how is it you will not walk in forgiveness with those around you? Many times we must make the effort to come along the side of Grace and mercy to purify our self enough so that the holy Spirit can penetrate our wills and bring us into a spirit of forgiveness, of love, of gentleness, and all the other attributes of the Spirit. This realm and your salvation is mixed with Ego/ self and your true divine nature and sometimes the "old nature" comes forth. Confession, repentance and the act of contrition will bring upon your broken spirit. In this spirit is forgiveness. Glean from this and learn how to recall this inner divine nature and finally how to walk in it more and more until it is truly you.

#### February 23, 2022

#### Wednesday

# YOU PERFECTED IN CHRIST JESUS

"men made perfect and to jesus the mediator of the new covenant and to the sprinkled blood."

- Hebrews 12:24

Tt doesn't matter your education, how Lmuch money you acquire in your life, a career that is successful, how thin you are, what your family name is; no nothing you do in self-will perfect you, but by your surrender to the blood of Christ. Now, of course, there no thing wrong with acquiring the above as long as they are not your idols. Yet as you know in our world they matter more than your salvation. For through your confession in the knowledge of Christ's Blood is the mystery of the Christian. Go to His alter and confess and weep at your pathetic life that you believe you are doing so well as you compare to one another, knowing the truth: Only through Christ are you perfected and made whole. You can NOT mediate to this level of Christ. Release yourself and let go. Only through Christ are you made whole.



February 24, 2022 Thursday

#### REJOICE IN THE LORD

"Rejoice, O people of Zion!!!!Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!!! look your King is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet humble riding on a donkey."

- Zechariah 9:9

y friends do not lament that the Jewish nation has refused to acknowledge the Messiah: Jesus Christ. The Jewish people are our greatest friends. And because of Christ we are adopted into their spiritual family. Praise God that over and over we read in the scriptures of Christ's coming even though this was hundreds of years before His birth!!! Rejoice my brothers, my sisters for we love our neighbors as Christ so loves us.

# February 25, 2022 Friday

#### PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

"So if you sinful people know how to give gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

- Luke 11:13

y friends why do you rely upon your natural selves to understand God when God through the Holy Spirit is manifesting always. Why do you lean on your own understanding? Think of it this way. How much do you yearn to give your own children? Think of how much God wants to give you? You have not because you DO NOT believe. You must deepen your prayer!!! Pray to overcome self, your natural self, and then stay committed to the process of regeneration. Stop relying on self and be immersed in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Dig deeper. Stay in God, experience Him and renounce your self. You are the stumbling block as you need to be born again!!!! The holy spirit is ever present!!



## February 26, 2022 Saturday

#### PEACE TO BE WITH YOU

"Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness. May God's Grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ."

– Ephesians 6:23

**T** ay the love of Christ, His peace dwell in you and around you. Fellowship in the spirit of love, joy and peace. The love of Christ is in you, you are filled with His love upon your confession that you are redeemed through His shed blood. Bring yourself to a love of Jesus Christ. Know that Christ is, was and shall always be the King of Kings. The Lord is giving you this peace, His love, and his joy. It is through His dispensation of Christ that you draw your courage. Always know without DOUBT that God is with you!!! Doubt blocks you off from Grace and allows fear to rule through self. Go forth in the love of Christ!!!

# February 27, 2022 Sunday

# THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE!!!

"The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing!!!! And it is wonderful to see. This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!! Please, Lord, please save us. Please, Lord, please give us success. Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord God is shining upon us."

- Psalm 118:22-26

Today is the day the Lord has made!!! Shake off the fear of the day and rejoice my friends!!!! This psalm Christ would sing with His disciples as they walked the various paths upon the earth. Christ was a human too, He had to shake off the atmosphere here that contains the fear!!! Wake up!!! Rejoice for the stone that has been rejected has indeed become our rock and our cornerstone!!! Stand up and be set apart. Now you are made new in Christ, from His blood!!! Open up your hearts to the Lord now!!!

## February 28, 2022 Monday

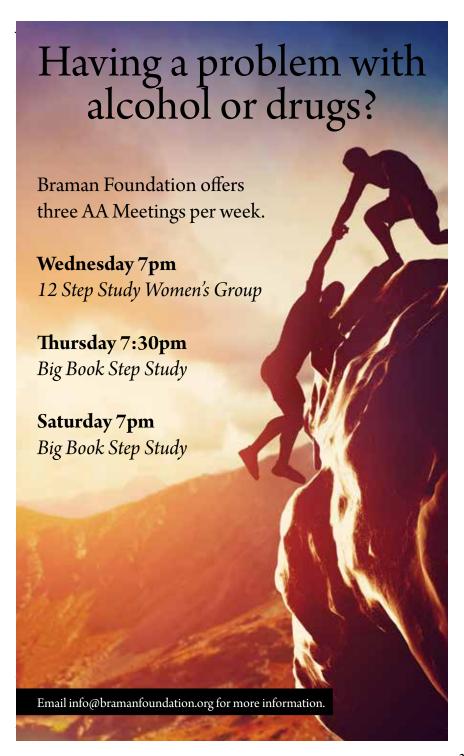
#### **CONFORM TO CHRIST'S WORK**

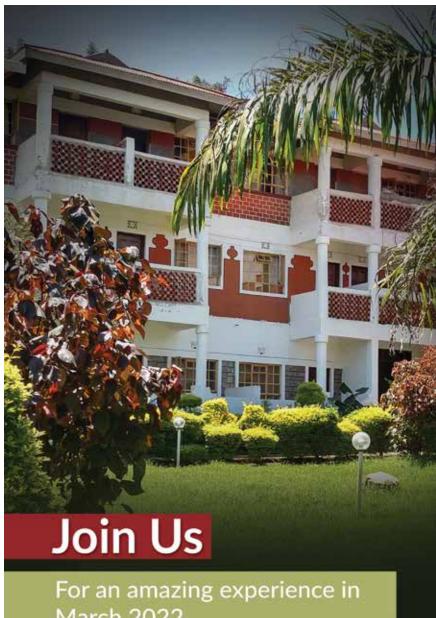
"So let us go out to him outside the camp, and bear the disgrace he bore. For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come."

- Hebrews 13:13

Here we are instructed and reminded that this world is not our home and we need not conform to its standards. This writing is NOT going to define standards only to say that we are to be obedient to the inner small voice of The Holy Spirit. Each of us is instructed and used as The Holy Spirit has willed. However, we must first become silent to listen, to read the word, then we must act upon the inner calling. Christ's work is about kingdom building and His command to Love the Lord Thy God with all Thine heart, thy mind and soul, and the second command is like the first and is the same: To love Thy Neighbor. So do not conform to this world but proceed with Christ.







March 2022.

Details for the retreat will be available soon on bramanfoundation.org



The BFC African Retreat is complete inclusive; hotels, airfare, limo and transportation, all meals and even the core of your Visa to Kenya. BFC wants to earn your trust, so you are able to be completely free to enjoy your retreat.

We take you for your careful, and prayerful retreat. Please know that we are here to serve you.

## Highlights

Archaeological Site - Thimlich Ohinga

Traditional Luo Dance

Ruma National Park

A Vivid and Varied Landscape

## What's Included

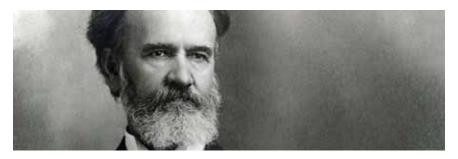
Round-Trip Travel Queensbury Hotel to Nairobi

Hotel Stay at Ole Sereni

Ruma National Park Safari

Visa, Yellow Fever Shot, Food

# A Daily Devotional



"Continue ye in my love"

- John 15:9

There are many different atmospheres in which one may live. Some people live in an atmosphere of thought. Their faces are thoughtful, their minds intellectual. They live in their ideas, their concepts of truth, their tastes and aesthetic nature. Other people live in their animal nature, in the lusts of the flesh and eye, the coarse, low atmosphere of a sensuous life, or worse. Still others live in a world of duty. The predominating feature of their lives is conscience, and it carries with it a certain shadowy fear that takes away the simple freedom and gladness of life. Admittedly, in the latter there is a rectitude, an uprightness, a strictness of purpose and of conduct which cannot be ignored or questioned.

But Christ bids us live in an atmosphere of love. As my Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. In the original it is, live in my love. Love is the atmosphere in which He would have us constantly live-that is, believing that He ever loves us and claiming His divine approval and tender regard. This is the life of love.



#### RWB Sermons

# 3 Kinds of Love

Whereas in English we have one word to express all kinds of love, in Greek there are four different words for love. Let's take a quick look at those words. We'll combine two of them with related meanings into one category, differentiating three distinct kinds of love. Then we'll affirm three significant life truths that arise from our understanding of the different kinds of love.

# 1. Eros refers to physical or sexual love.

The word eros was commonly used in the Greek-speaking world of New Testament times. The word itself is not found in the pages of the New Testament. The concept of physical love, however—expressed in the context of marriage—is found and affirmed in the New Testament (see 1 Cor. 7:5; Heb. 13:4).

# 2. Philos means warm affection or friendship.

Philos was commonly used with reference to friendships or family relationships. For example, it was used in Matthew 10:37 to indicate love for father and mother or son and daughter. Philos was the word used of Jesus' love for His friend Lazarus (John 11:3,36) and His love for His disciple (John 20:2).

A related word, storgē, means "family devotion." Storgē is not a common word in the New Testament. In Romans 12:10, it is compounded with philos (philostorgoi) and can be translated "devoted" (NASB) or "brotherly affection" (ESV).

# 3. Agapē is the sacrificial, unconditional love of God.

In the New Testament, agapē is the highest form of love. But outside of the New Testament, the word was rarely used. Prior to New Testament times, agapē did not carry any special significance as a higher kind of love. Thus, it's the New Testament understanding of the unique nature of God's love—not the word's usage in the Greek-speaking world of the first century—that gives the word agapē its special meaning.

Agapē is the word that describes God's love in John 3:16, "God loved the world in this way ..." (CSB). We are commanded to love God (Matt. 22:37) and love one another (John 13:34) with agapē love. Agapē is the word for love used in 1 Corinthians 13.

#### 3 LIFE TRUTHS

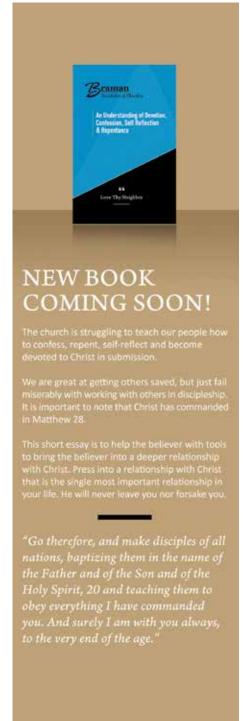
1. To say that agape love is the highest form of love is not to say other kinds of love are insignificant or trivial. God created sexual love (eros) to be expressed in marriage between husbands and wives. He also created us to be connected to friends (philos)—to live in community. We are not trivializing these other kinds of love by saying agape is the highest form of love. We want to affirm romantic love and friendship love as significant and meaningful.

# 2. All genuine love comes from God because God is love.

A biblical definition of love must start with God. Whether that love is romantic—between husband and wife—or the bond between friends, love that is genuine comes from God because "God is love" (1 John 4:16). If God is love, then we love others best by loving Him most.

# 3. Followers of Christ are to be known by the way they love.

Jesus commanded His followers: "Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35, CSB). The word Jesus used for love is the verb form of agapē. The pattern of our love is "as I have loved you." In other words, we are to be known by our self-giving, sacrificial, unconditional love for one another. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, describes what such love looks like, practically speaking.



# SPURGEON'S CORNER

"Thy love is better than wine" Song of Solomon 1:2



Nothing gives the believer so much joy as fellowship with Christ.

He has enjoyment as others have in the common mercies of life, he can be glad both in God's gifts and God's works; but in all these separately, yea, and in all of them added together, he doth not find such substantial delight as in the matchless person of his Lord Jesus. He has wine which no vineyard on earth ever yielded; he has bread which all the corn-fields of Egypt could never bring forth. Where can such sweetness be found as we have tasted in communion with our Beloved? In our esteem, the joys of earth are little better than husks for swine compared with Jesus, the heavenly manna. We would rather have one mouthful of Christ's love, and a sip of his fellowship, than a whole world full of carnal delights. What is the chaff to the wheat? What is the sparkling paste to the true diamond? What is a dream to the glorious reality? What is time's mirth, in its best trim, compared to our Lord Jesus in His most despised estate? If you know anything of the inner life, you will confess that our highest, purest, and most enduring joys must be the fruit of the tree of life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. No spring yields such sweet water as that well of God which was digged with the soldier's spear. All earthly bliss is of the earth earthy, but the comforts of Christ's presence are like Himself, heavenly. We can review our communion with Jesus, and find no regrets of emptiness therein; there are no dregs in this wine, no dead flies in this ointment. The joy of the Lord is solid and enduring. Vanity hath not looked upon it, but discretion and prudence testify that it abideth the test of years, and is in time and in eternity worthy to be called "the only true delight." For nourishment, consolation, exhilaration, and refreshment, no wine can rival the love of Jesus. Let us drink to the full this evening.

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— The — Mid Week Message

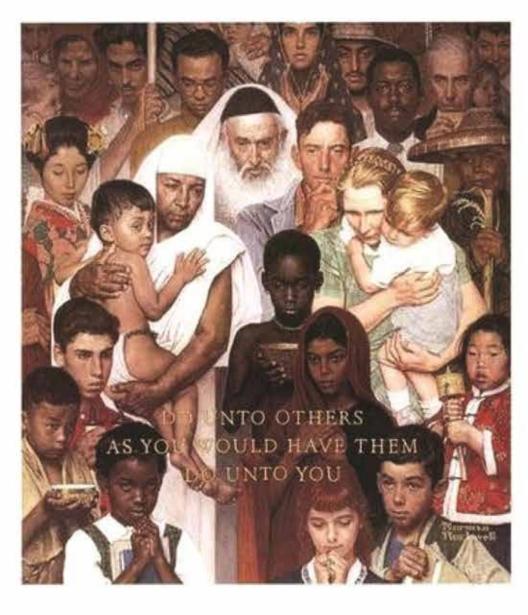
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"And whatever you do in words and deeds do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks and a grateful heart to God"

Colossians 6:17



## NORMAN ROCKWELL "DO UNTO OTHERS"

