



Fairgrounds Road  
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

# MESSENGER

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“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

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Sunday – April 23, 2017

## Heart to Heart...

It's one of the most preached on subjects spoken in some form almost weekly. How many lessons on love have you heard? A Bible class on love? Yet it is one of the most lacking in the lives of many. Love seems to be one of the last resorts when faced with difficulties. People become discouraged and they seem to never think in terms of love. The apostle Paul taught: **“Love never fails!”** (I Corinthians 13:8) If that's the case, when we become disturbed, struggling, discouraged what are we called to do? When people can't get along with one another or have conflicts, what are we called to do?

Everything is fine as long as people agree with us. Someone disagrees and hurts us and hard feelings can result. If it continues it will lead us into “avoiding” them because of the hurt. Where's love in that? I have had over the years brethren threaten if I preached on certain subjects they disagreed with me on they would never come back to worship with us. The problem was these brethren refused to sit down and go over the verses with me they disagreed on. Where's love in that? Love doesn't threaten, and does not allow hard feelings to come into their heart or divide. **“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”** (I John 4:8)

Brethren, God's love is not based on an emotion. It has nothing to do with how you feel. It will change the way you feel when applied, but has nothing to do with your feelings. In the cases I listed above, and others I didn't mention, many times people can never get past their emotions. They continually turn in their emotional, agitated state and never go beyond. There is no power to over-come and win the victory because the love of God is not their basis. Love is a choice decided from faith! To love as God loves is not to take things personally, but to look out for what is needed in the situation or in the best interest of others. Doesn't the cross teach us that? Was God looking out for our best interest while we were in rebellion and sin? Love is not self-seeking. Love does not keep a record of wrongs. What if the Lord did that to you? Marriages split because of the absence of true spiritual love. Congregations split because love is refused. Friendships are dissolved because love is rejected. Love is the ingredient that overcomes all these obstacles. **“And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.”** (Colossians 3:14) Love always sides and follows the truth! **“Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth.”** (I Corinthians 13:6) When love is absent so is God!

We can see love in the actions and decisions we make. We see God's love in the action of His Son. God didn't have to rescue us. In fact, sin is the very enemy of God, but God chose to love us by sending His Son. We learn that love seeks what is the best for others in every case. How about us? You will continue to hear lessons from God on love because it is the most difficult part in our faith. We need to come to know God because God is love. When you start working off of love, you're on the road to true spiritual growth. Think about it!!!

Brent