

# Love gives, lust takes

Van Yandell

“God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Advice we occasionally hear given to young people is, “Don’t confuse love with lust.” Lust is usually associated with sexual desires. Our physical bodies cause us to do many things we later regret and the powerful sexual desire of humans at times affects our ability to reason rationally.

The word love is often confused. Eros love is a love between a husband and wife and not to be confused with agape love. Agape love is actually the highest form of love. God’s love for His creation is demonstrated in this definition. Jesus demonstrated this selfless sacrificial love on the cross.

Lust of course, can be for riches, power or prestige. A strong insatiable desire for anything that causes one to act irrationally to be satisfied can be classified as lust.

Exodus 20:17a says, “Thou shalt not covet.” Coveting is very closely connected to lust. In many cases, they may be exactly the same. Our desires can very easily overreach into sin.

Lust is of the body and love is of the heart. Lust is a physical, desire, while love is a deeper, more emotional and committed feeling.

Lust could never provide the commitment as does actual love. Lust is selfish and immediate while love is selfless and patient.

Many non-believers in the world consider the story of Jesus giving Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind to be an irrational, illogical belief. Why would, how could the Creator of all things do such a thing?

This is where the difference in Christianity and some of the other world religions begin to separate. Whereas Christianity is about God’s love for His creation (mankind), various other religions are about power, selfishness, hatred, human sacrifice or

man’s actions to gain eternity.

We do not have eternal salvation by what we may do but by what Jesus did. His sacrificial shedding of blood became the sacrifice for the sins of all.

John 15:12-14 says, “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”

The American military service men and women, firefighters and police officers lay their lives on the line every day. Many jobs are more than a paycheck and “life on the line” is an everyday existence.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (Living Bible) says, “Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong.”

This definition of “love” given by the Apostle Paul makes a statement all need to hear and heed. When we think of love and it does not conform to this description in 1 Corinthians, perhaps we should re-examine our personal definitions of love.

Perhaps Paul’s thoughts concerning love and many world religions not practicing these simple concepts explains why the world is in such chaos today. The presence of love would not include the wars and many illegal activities happening in our world today.

Many resent the Christian concept of the urgency of promoting the Gospel of Christ Jesus. The vast misunderstanding is because teaching the love of Christ is an act of love.

I will never forget talking to a man in a (mostly) non-Christian country. After explaining the path to eternity through belief in Christ, he asked me, “What does it cost?” He thought I was trying to sell him something.

When I told him it was a free gift from God and I was there because the Bible commands that I do so, he was at a loss for words.

We tell others about the saving power of our Jesus because He has commanded us to do exactly that (Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8). Secondly, because we are Christians we are commanded to love all mankind.

John 13:34 says, “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” This cannot be interpreted as loving only those we personally know, but all the world’s people. Because of this we go to “the uttermost” (Acts 1:8) to preach and teach. John 13:34-35 says, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Loving all people demonstrates to the world we are not only believers but also followers of the Lord Jesus. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” John clearly states in repeating the words of Jesus that “God so loved the world.”

With the approaching Christmas season, we are reminded by the sights and sounds of God’s love for us. The birth of the Christ child was the beginning of the redemption of man. Since the “fall of man” (Genesis 3), man has had the need to be redeemed and Jesus provided that.

We must always teach that eternal salvation is attained by a faith-based belief (Ephesians 2:8) in Christ Jesus crucified (Matthew 27:35) for the remission of sin (1 John 1:9), resurrected (Matthew 28:6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1:9).

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# The Christmas spirit

Dr. Glenn Mollette

We can’t think about December without thinking about Christmas. December is saturated with Christmas. Christmas shopping, Christmas baking, Christmas Carols, Christmas television programs, Christmas religious services and the Christmas spirit.

Christmas has an accelerated pace of hustle and bustle but it also has an eerie haunting side. I was going through my cell phone contact list this morning and was appalled at how many contacts I have in my phone who are now deceased. Every time I turn around I discover an acquaintance has passed. For so many of us, we can’t really arise to the crescendo side of Christmas celebrations without wading through the mire of grief. We think about parents, spouses, children and friends whom we loved so much who are not here to celebrate Christmas with us. We remember old times that were good times. Those times aren’t as possible as they once were. So,

this presents a major hurdle for many of us to overcome and it’s not easy.

Christmas presents a yearly challenge for us to create a new and special time. What was, will not be again. Thus, we have to recreate our holidays which means they will be different. They can’t be the same, because what was no longer exists. Therefore, what was, cannot happen again.

The baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He was God in the flesh. He came with a divine purpose to bring joy and life. He brought joy to Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wisemen who traveled from afar to worship him. Unfortunately, Jesus was troubling to some who did not understand his mission and purpose.

This month of December we will not forget those who were so special to us. They helped make Christmas bright. Let’s focus on the one who really brings light to our lives and is the light of the world and that’s the baby Jesus, who said, “I am the light

of the world.” We need his light to navigate the darkness. Yes, the world has a dark side. Death and grief are difficult to navigate. We need the Christ child who came to help and save us to lead us through this month and the rest of our lives.

This December let’s focus on loving those we know and those who are here. Let’s draw close to each other. Jesus will help us. He said, “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me.” He will make our journey lighter and brighter. Reach out to others. Don’t wait for your phone to ring. You make the call. Send the text and reach out. Spread God’s love and spread well wishes and goodness to all you know.

When we give love and hope to others, it comes back to us. If we invest in others, the invest in some way will be returned. Jesus is our example. He came to Earth. He lived, loved and walked among us. We are the benefactors of his life. As we look to Him this season, may others be the beneficiaries of the Christmas spirit that dwells in you.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

**SUNDAY, DEC. 14**  
**SEDDON GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH** — “A Child is Born” Christmas musical, 6 p.m., refreshments served following performance, 1317 Forest Avenue (corner of Forest and Broadway).

**MISC.**  
**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH** — Every Wednesday at 6 p.m., Bible Study, 410 Pelham Street, Maysville.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** — Choir practice, 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Bible study, 6 p.m. on Wednesdays. Both at 21 West Third Street in Maysville.

**MASON COUNTY**

**MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION** — Meeting the second Wednesday of each month, contact any of the new officers: President, Rev. Adam Burton (Central Baptist Church); Vice President, Rev. Elizabeth Smith (Seddon Methodist Church); and Secretary/Treasurer, Marilyn Roades (Wesley Chapel Church).

**MOUNT TABOR** — Tuesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Join in the study of Psalms and put a “Psalm in Your Heart.” Church located in Ribolt.

**SHEPHERD’S HOUSE/COMMUNITY TUESDAY** — Every Tuesday, 209 East Third Street, 10 a.m.-noon, open to the

public, sewing and clothing ministry, free sewing machine adjustments; every third Tuesday food box handout. Text Gordon Jones, pastor, at 606-301-1921.

**SHEPHERD’S HOUSE FOOD DRIVE** — Donations of non-perishable foods are now being accepted at both church locations at 209 East Third Street.

**ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH** — Mass, 9:30 a.m., Minerva, services every Sunday.

**WASHINGTON CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH** — Choir practice, 6 p.m. on Wednesdays. Bible study, 5 p.m. on Sundays.

# Shepherd’s House Christmas Gala

Submitted by Tawnya Smith

The Shepherd’s House will be hosting their 5th Annual Christmas Gala on Sunday evening, Dec. 14 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. This is a free event for the community, and all are welcome to attend. There will be a variety

of entertainment for the whole family. Mr. Marty Mastin will be the master of ceremonies, and Mrs. Harriett Groh and Mr. Mike Huff will be the special guest singers for the evening. There will be a special dramatic dance put on by the Ignite Youth, as well as a spe-

cial skit entitled, “Bethlehem’s Got Talent,” put on by the Shepherd’s House Church members.

You will not want to miss the Shepherd’s House Rock-a-Bye Babies who will be making their hilarious debut at the evening’s festivities. A gorgeous Amish hand-stitched quilt and a beautiful Christmas basket will be raffled off that evening to benefit the Ignite Youth Program. Cookies and punch will be served after the event.

# Kentucky State Police Post 8 drug tip leads to arrest

Submitted by Kentucky State Police


**MT. STERLING** – On Wednesday, December 3, at approximately 4:40 p.m. the Kentucky State Police (KSP) Post 8 received a crime tip through the anonymous hotline of possible drug


activity near the 200 block of Harrison Avenue in Mt. Sterling.

When Troopers arrived at the residence they spoke with Garrette Wayne Peck, 28 years old, of Mt. Sterling, who advised he lived there with his roommate. As a result of the investigation Troopers located several pounds of processed marijuana, baggies, scales, a large sum of cash and fire-

arms. These items were seized and Mr. Peck was arrested and charged with Trafficking in marijuana (> 5 lbs.) (1st offense) and lodged in the Montgomery County Detention Center.

This case remains under investigation by Trooper Nathan Shortridge. If anyone has any further information of suspicious activity in your neighborhood, you can call KSP at 606-784-4127.





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