

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
217.493.8905

Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofchrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—28
Wednesday—7
Contribution—\$

For meditation:
Ecclesiastes 2.1-2
In ch. 1, Solomon shows the emptiness of education for education's sake. What's the next area of human pursuit that he judge to be equally empty and absurd without God?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

The voice of love

As tyrannical and dictatorial as law can be, it can't hold a candle to the tyranny and dictates of love.

There is no authority we obey more readily than the voice of love. Force (having your arm twisted behind your back till you cry "uncle"), fear (e.g., the threat of physical harm or worse), a carrot-on-a-stick, and other carnal measures can compel obedience, but none of these can carry us to the good extremes that result from love (2 Cor. 5.14). There's no law demanding husbands always treat their wife like they're on their honeymoon, but love can produce a perpetual honeymoon (Rev. 2.4). No tape measure that can adequately measure the reach of love in every direction (Eph. 3.17-18).

Faith makes all things possible (Matt. 17.20); love makes all things easy. Maybe the best example of this is when Jacob agreed to work for his uncle Laban for seven years in order to marry Laban's daughter, Rachel. "So Jacob served seven years for Rachel," says Genesis 29.20, "and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her." The Thessalonians were noted for their "labor of love" (1 Thes. 1.3). Love labors, and when it does, it doesn't seem like labor.

Perfect love casts out fear (1 Jn. 4.18). Love and fear are incompatible. Years ago, I read a story in *Reader's Digest* about a Florida mother who took on an eight-foot alligator that had grabbed her child and was heading for the swamp. The big gator was no match for the ferocity of a she-bear robbed of her cubs (Hos. 13.8). If you're paralyzed by some phobia, the prescription for it is love.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

Get to know your Bible translations

AdamsTales.com



NLT

A nice guy, but a little immature. Frequently gets in trouble with the older crowd. Still digs VeggieTales.



NASB

Intelligent and analytical. A little socially awkward. Engineering major. Slightly pretentious.



KJV

Loves to talk about the "good ole days." Doesn't get the youth. Always thinks he's right. Says things like: "If I was good enough for the pioneer preachers, I'm good enough for you."



NKJV

Solid guy despite a slight inferiority complex. Insists he's nothing like his dad. Dresses and talks like he's 20 years younger than he actually is.



ESV

One cool cat. All the popular folks like him. Recent success may be going to his head a little.



NIV

Was super-popular in high school. Got caught up in the wrong crowd and was never quite the same after that.

Sermon: Isaiah 40

Tidings of comfort and joy

22 December 2024

Uttermost Love

The ASV margin note for John 13.1 reads, “Jesus . . . having loved his own . . . loved them *to the uttermost*.” This is one of those striking modifiers related to love that appears in the Bible. (E.g., see Eph. 6.24, “Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in *sincerity*—“with an undying love,” NIV.)

Christ loved His disciples to the uttermost. Here are four characteristics of uttermost love I find in the context of John 13.

SELF-FORGETTING

People under great stress and pressure typically are too preoccupied with their own trouble to think about another’s problem. There was never stress, pressure, or trouble like Jesus was bearing in John 13; within twenty-four hours He would be dead. But rather than being comforted by His disciples, He tried to cheer and comfort them. “Let not your hearts be troubled,” He will soon say (Jn. 14.1). Uttermost love is aware of another’s trouble and problems.

OTHER-SERVING

It was Jesus, not one of His disciples, who rose from the supper and performed the most menial chore any of them could have performed by washing the disciples’ feet. I think Christ’s example of service here is the best commentary we have on Philippians 2.5–8. Uttermost love is willing to stoop and condescend to perform the lowliest services of all.

ENEMY LOVING

Christ washed the feet of Judas, the one who would betray Him (Jn. 13.2). I’m not sure I’d be willing to stoop that low for someone whom I knew had sold me out. John goes to great lengths to tell that Jesus wasn’t duped; He knew full well what Judas was plotting. “Have I not chose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” (Jn. 6.70). I have trouble enough loving my brother and my neighbor, but loving my enemy?? Uttermost love isn’t limited to those who like us but encompasses those who hate us.

SLOW IN EXPOSING

“Love,” says Paul, is “slow to expose” (13.7, MOFFATT). When Christ said “one of you will betray Me” (13.21), the eleven hadn’t a clue whom He was talking about; Christ had given no hint of Judas’s evil plan. Uttermost love will shield the guilty if doing so allows them time to repent. Christ’s example of uttermost loves tells me I’ve got a lot of growing to do (Phil. 1.9).

kenny

Why I celebrate Christmas

I’ve been scolded more than once by Christians about the impropriety of singing “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem” in December or putting up a Christmas tree, because of Christmas’s pagan and denominational associations. My response to these chastenings has always been, “Bah, humbug!”

I unapologetically rejoice whenever the secular world pauses to remember the Lord Jesus Christ, including His birth in December and His resurrection at Easter. And I do so with a clear conscience, believing I have Scriptural sanction for my view.

An uninformed, misguided, or flat-out wrong cause can nevertheless have a good effect (e.g., 1 Kgs. 15.25–29, Hab. 1.11, Phil. 1.15–20). If December 25 somehow or other causes someone to think about the Lord’s birth, glory to God in the highest!

Many churches follow a “liturgical calendar” that sets out the Biblical text to be covered each week of the year. For the first week of August 2024, the lesson was on David’s murder of Uriah and the mercy shown him by God. Would it have been wrong for me to preach on Psalm 51 that week lest anyone think I was following the schedule of a denominational calendar?

Jesus didn’t condemn all man-made religious innovations. We’re all familiar with the Jewish synagogue; Christ’s custom was to attend the weekly synagogue service (Lk. 4.16). But the synagogue wasn’t part of the Law of Moses; it was a man-made innovation by Jewish exiles that arose after the destruction of Solomon’s Temple. Further, Christ had no qualms about being at the temple during Hanukkah—the Feast of Dedication—a grass-roots holiday that commemorated the cleansing of the temple during the time of the Maccabees (Jn. 10.22).

Romans 14 allows Christians to designate personal holy days for themselves. If a Christian wishes to remember the birth of Christ in some special way on December 25, that’s between Him and his Lord (Rom. 14.6), and any Christian who criticizes, embarrasses, or judges his brother to be less spiritual is wrong.

I find a lot to be merry about at Christmas. I hope you do too.
kenny

News about us

- After a long period of decline, Betty Sallee went to be with the Lord this past Wednesday. At this point, it looks like the funeral will be held December 30.
- We have so much sickness; keep all in your prayers.