



Muncy Baptist Church Newsletter



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Seeing the New Commandment in a New Way

*with Rev. Rob Rice, Pastor
and Felicia Sheets*

Love may be one of the most overused yet underappreciated words in the English language. We use that word when it comes to our favorite sports team (“I love the Eagles!”), about our favorite foods (“I love pizza!”), but then we will speak the same truth to our spouse or children. Many of our praise songs and hymns reminds us about the love God shows us in Christ Jesus or encourages us to declare our love for God boldly through the things we say and how we live.

Love may be a word that we throw around too casually, but if we understand it from a Biblical perspective, it is a word that holds a great deal of weight and meaning. When Jesus spoke of love in John 13:34-35, He gave new meaning to what it means to truly love. John 13:34-35 tells us, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Seems simple and straight forward, doesn’t it? Sure, most of us probably think that we already do this; we are kind to our neighbors, we smile at strangers, and we take care of our family members who need that extra care. But can that be all that God means, or is there more to it than that?

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I've come across a few verses that I think can help us dive into that new command given, so we can see for ourselves if we are living up to our full potential of loving one another and in doing so, strengthening our bonds with not only each other, but God Himself.

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves” (Romans 12:10). Being devoted to one another comes from a deep love that we have within us, and I feel we are all capable of sharing that deep love to the people who cross our path in life. All it takes is a little bit of trust, a leap of faith, and a whole lot of prayer. We can humble ourselves and do something as simple as show up consistently, listen, and show empathy; and that can be the start to growing a beautiful and honorable relationship.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” (Philippians 2:3). Having selflessness and putting others needs before your own is a good trait to have to in any relationship, but when wanting to dive deep into loving one another as we are called to do, it is a pretty important trait to have. We know we are called to live Christ-like lives, so here is the perfect example of what we can do to follow in His footsteps, by taking up a service for others and aiming for unity over personal gain or rivalry.

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God” (Romans 15:7). Accepting others and loving them through it all is what we are called to do. Love people as they are because we were taught as kids in Sunday School, no two people are alike, and that is a beautifully unique thing to have in the world. We must welcome everyone, and meet them where they are at, embrace the questions, and remember to give each other grace, just as Christ gives us grace. The ultimate purpose is to bring honor and praise to God.

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). Bearing the burdens of others may seem intimidating and scary, especially if you feel like you are carrying many burdens in your own life. But just think about the weight that you can release by sharing your own life's troubles with someone else. Then you can return the favor by letting someone do the same for their own life's burdens. That not only lightens the load for both of you, but you also strengthen your bond with each other, and you do exactly what God is asking you to do.

When we define love the way Scripture does, what becomes incredibly clear is that love isn't about simply talking a good game; it requires great effort and sacrifice. As I think of my own life, I realize that if I try to love like this on a regular basis in my own strength, it's something I can never do. You and I are incapable of this if left alone, but thankfully, when Jesus calls us to love one another, He doesn't give the command without reminding us of His own love which He pours into our hearts. It's through His love that fills our hearts, and His Spirit working within us, that each of these commands and actions connected with love become possible.

You're going to hear a lot about love this month, and I'm sure you and I will still overuse the word from time to time, but it's my prayer that when you hear that four letter word, you'll take time to pause, to thank God for His love given to us in Christ Jesus and pray that His love would allow you to love in such a way that takes greater action, and to live according to His Word!

A Willing Witness

Law and Gospel

with Rev. Dr. Don Edwards, Associate Pastor



“I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.”
Galatians 2:21

If you study the New Testament, you will see that God’s love is almost always given in direct correlation to the cross: herein is love, for God so loved, commended His love etc. (Look up John 3:16; Romans 5:5,6,8; Galatians 2:20; Revelation 1:5.)

The Cross is the focal point of God’s love for the world. When we point to the cross, we must make reference to sin. How can we refer to sin without using the Law? **Romans 7:7 states, “Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, ‘You must not covet.’”** The biblical way to express God’s love to a sinner is to show him/her how great their sin is using the Law – **Galatians 3:24 states, “But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So, we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God’s good commands for its own evil purposes.”**

Ponder this, we need to adjust our presentation of the gospel. We cannot dismiss the fact that God hates sin and punishes sinners with eternal torment. How can we begin a gospel presentation by telling people on their way to hell that God has a wonderful plan for their life? It is true that God has a wonderful plan for our lives – but this can only be achieved if we come to the Cross of Christ, repent of our sins and trust in the Savior, and be justified through the righteousness of Christ.

“For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.” 2 Corinthians 7:10

Before anyone can be saved, they must come to this spiritual realization.

THEY MUST HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THEY NEED TO BE SAVED!

God at Work

Events Happening at Muncy Baptist Church

Mission of the Month: During the month of February, we will receive special offerings for the Sonlight House. To make a gift, please mark your check or envelope, "Sonlight."

Diaper Drive for Expectations Women's Center: Throughout the month of February, we will receive the following items for Expectations Women's Center: size 4-6 diapers, pull-ups, wipes, and diaper cream. Donations can be placed in the bins in the Fellowship Room.

expectations
WOMEN'S CENTER



Community Lenten Bible Study: This year, we will once again join with our brothers and sisters from Pleasant View Wesleyan and St. Andrew for a Lenten Bible Study. This year's study, entitled, "Journey to Jerusalem," will cover some of Jesus' major teachings from the Gospel of Luke after He set His face towards Jerusalem. Join us as we grow together in our faith and take a journey with Jesus which will prepare us to better remember His death, and celebrate His resurrection. This six-week study will be held in our Fellowship Room each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. from February 18 - March 25.

Fellowship Time: We are looking for volunteers to help with Fellowship Time in 2026. Please sign up if you are interested in helping.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries in February

Wayne & Barbara McPheron	02/03
Harvey & Lois Geib	02/14
Eric & Shaun Bartlow	02/18
John & Schawanna Vermilya	02/27

Birthdays in February

Matthew Savoy	02/02
Patty Woodruff	02/02
Carol Bicking	02/06
Mylee Morrison	02/06
Max Johnson	02/10
Erin Mowrey	02/10
William Breneisen	02/12
Jennie Fisher	02/15
Leanne Schneider	02/16
Stephanie Sanders	02/16
Mary Hillyard	02/16
Dennis Gorg	02/18
Maggie Wenhold	02/18
Nancy Foresman	02/19
Tom Breneisen	02/20
Rev. William Harrel	02/23
Otto Hurne	02/24
Jalen Duhaime	02/25
Patty Fairchild	02/26
Jeff Morrison	02/28
Alice Jane Johnson	02/28
Mary Jane Bogart	02/28



**Don't see your anniversary or birthday?
Please let us know, so we can celebrate with you!**