



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

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Love: a Commitment and a Mindset

From the Pastor's Desk

The Definition of Love

1 Corinthians 13

What is love? That question might take the greatest thinkers and philosophers a lifetime to define. It's the kind of question that causes confusion in those who try to put such an immense character quality into a prescribed box or parameter.

Love is complicated, and to think about it can become mind boggling. But what is it? How does one truly define it? We see that many in the Arts try to imitate its attributes and splendor. Movies and plays often do a poor portrayal of what real love is, in and out of their careers. In paintings and writings we can see that man has tried to define such a wonderful part of life, but they too fall short of what love is really about.

We see sports stars flopping in their personal lifestyles and thus negate themselves as heroes and role models. The music industry as a whole lacks a true conservative understanding of it. So, what is love? How does one define it? As we embark on the month that celebrates St. Valentine's Day, we are forced to look at what it is and what kind of impact it has on our lives.

In 1 John 4:8 we read that God is love. But what does that entail? To get a better look at what love is, one just needs to turn to 1 Corinthians 13, in particular verses 4-8a. In this chapter Paul writes about the very attributes that not only show us what love is, but also who God is. Starting with verse 4, Paul writes, "Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails ..."

Does this look like the love that is portrayed in the realm of modern day society? Does this paint a picture of what you thought love consisted of? Is this even close to the definition you would have given? If we are honest with ourselves we might have written something different and more romantic, but that is not what *real love* is about.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Feb. 1, 7:30 a.m. – Men's First Prayer Breakfast

The men share a meal, and then discuss some scripture.

Feb. 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m. – Valentine's Day Dinner

Couples and singles are invited to our annual Valentine's Day Dinner.

Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m. – Church Council

Planning church activities and events for the next several months.

Real love is the love that we find in 1st Corinthians. It is a love that places others first. It is a love that is not self-seeking or self-pleasing. It is a love that regards others more than oneself. Love is not a feeling, but a proper disposition in which someone extends themselves to the point of risking all things. The love of that the Bible paints is a love that did in fact give all to the point of pain and death. For when Christ walked this earth He did not break any part of the passage quoted. He lived it one hundred percent and died the same way on the cross. He gave it all. He loved with his all. He *is* love.

In your own personal life, how do you live out love? Or better stated how do you love? Is it like the preceding passage or is it self-centered and self-absorbed. Husbands, when you made a commitment to your wife years ago, it was probably done with a feeling of love from within, but has that love grown to the point that – no matter what comes your way – you are truly committed to loving your wife? Do you love her when you don't feel like you do? Wives do you do as well?

As we read in the Bible, *love is more a commitment and a mindset than a feeling*, but our world around us would have us believe differently. Our world would have us believe that marriages are as disposable as diapers. Philosophers of this age would have us believe that real love is to be defined so that if it makes you happy then do it, if it doesn't, then get away from it. Many ministers today would tell you that God doesn't want you to stay in a marriage if you are not

(See **Pastor** on p. 2)

In This Issue ... Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Christian Chicks | Men's Breakfast | Property & Space Patrol | March for Life | Birthdays & Anniversaries

Pastor (from p. 1)

satisfied. But is this the picture of love that we read in 1 Corinthians? The answer of course is an emphatic “NO.” So how can one come around to a true understanding of love? Well, first one must go back to what I quoted from 1 John 4 and that is “God is love.” We must first understand that the very fact that love exists is because it is an extension of God himself. Love is derived from God, but the love that many portray today is a corrupted love. Man’s love is far from what God’s love is like, but if we can start with the foundational point that love is directly from God and that He is love, then we can have a sure foundation.

Christ is love and when we start there our understanding of love will be rooted and grounded properly. Also we must adopt the kind of love that we read in 1 Corinthians. This of course is easier said than done. The kind of love that we read there is a love that puts *you* second and *others* first, but with prayer and guidance from our Savior you can truly begin to practice what *real love* is. Once we adopt the sacrificial love we see in Christ then we can truly begin to show the world what true love is like.

If love is to be defined, it is not to be defined by our society or by those who are popular. It is to be defined by God and lived out by you and me, those who have received the love of Christ through the saving work on his cross. I hope and pray that you can begin to live out true love in your life based upon the passage of 1 Corinthians 13. May you not only know such love in your life, but also may you display such love to others. God bless.

✠ Pastor Jim

Christian Chicks

The ladies met for devotions and fellowship on Jan. 25. This was rescheduled from the usual first Sunday.

Leadership of the group has transitioned from Shannon Greenly to Michelle Robertson. At publishing time, there had not been an announcement of a meeting for February. So stay tuned for further news.

Men’s Breakfast

The guy will stumble into church early Sunday morning, Feb. 1st for Men’s Breakfast for some wake up juice, a hot cooked meal, and some engaging Bible study.

One topic of conversation is a possible change to the meeting time and location. We had talked about it last month but did not come to a consensus. This month we decided to try a Saturday luncheon. The next men’s event will be on March 7 at noon at Alan’s of Boscawen, which is on Route 3 just north of Penacook center.

Property and Space Patrol

There is a big change in our snow removal operation. We have contracted Chris La Valley of La Valley Farms in Hooksett to take over the plowing. This was discussed under new business at the January business meeting and approved. For next winter, the cost will be \$2250.00 for the whole season, regardless of the number of storms, and includes

sanding. This will ensure that we can hold a Sunday Service if it snows on the weekend.

Chris got initiated right off on Wednesday (Jan. 28) with the biggest snow storm of the season. With the snow accumulated from previous storms, there was not much space to put the new snow. He did a great job. The drive and parking areas were well cleared. I don’t know who shoveled off the walks and stairs but thank you for doing a good job.

There are two major projects that we are working on. First is replacing the flooring in the lower level of the church and the kitchen flooring in the parsonage. Second is expanding the parking at the rear of the church.

✠ Pastor Al Page

March for Life

On Jan. 17, Dale Greenly and I went to Concord for the annual March for Life Rally at the Capitol. This event commemorates the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision of Jan. 22, 1973 that ushered in the era of abortion on demand. Thus the rally is held on the weekend preceding that sad date. This was one of several events planned for the day by New Hampshire Right to Life (<http://www.nhrtl.org>), a Merimack-based organization.

Arriving at the Capitol just before 11 a.m., we noticed an outdoor sign that showed a temperature of barely 15 degrees. It wasn’t too bad if you stayed in the bright sunshine.

While waiting for the rally to start, we watched as people steadily joined our assembly. A young lady greeted me from behind sunglasses and a hooded winter coat. I recognized Katie, a high school friend of my daughter. She then pointed out Pastor David Bezanson. He had been pastor of Hillside in the 1990s, and has been pastor at Chichester Congregational for several years. This was one of the few times during the year that I get to join ranks with him.

The rally commenced after the crowd had swelled to about 300 people. We listened to several brief speeches, including the testimony of a few women who regretted the abortions they had. Then some people handed out pro-life stickers and printed signs and off we went down S. Main St.

One unfortunate aspect of the march was that it was on the west side of Main St. Since it was nearly noon, that side of the street was now in shade. The temperature was now around 18 degrees with a light breeze.

At the beginning of the March, Dale and I found ourselves behind what we assumed was a Catholic group. They were saying the rosary out loud in unison, and the leader was keeping count with a chain of beads as big as marbles.

After a few minutes Dale and I halted until we could join David Bezanson’s group, since we heard them singing Baptist hymns like “How Great Thou Art.”

The March continued past the Feminist Health Center (aka abortion clinic) and ended near St. John the Evangelist Church on South Main St.

Next year, I hope to have a few more Hillsideers join us.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people for orbiting the sun one more time:

- 2/12 Leo Bubacz
- 2/21 Charlotte Hastings
- 2/22 Billy Russo
- 2/25 Michael Russo

Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following couples who celebrate their wedding anniversaries this month:

- 2/9 Meire & Steven Sousa
- 2/15 Michael & Gail Frascinella

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for you—whether it be for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need – contact Natalie Carleton, Hillside's Prayer Coordinator, and she will get the word out to the membership via e-mail or by phone.

It will be our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus our Lord. Contact Natalie at grammiec10 at junodot com (punctuation spelled out on purpose).

On the Web

Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Next Issue

Deadline is Feb. 24. Send news items to News Wrangler Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.

Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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