

News at First

A Publication of First Southern Baptist Church
Floyds Knobs, Indiana
February 2010

Celebrate God!
Connect with Others!
Change our World!

From Our Pastor

"...God is love." (1 John 4:8)

As Valentine's Day quickly approaches, love is in the air. How are we to think about love? In 2010, I am going to be focusing on eleven different attributes of God, this month is love. As 1 John 4:8 makes it very clear, love is not just one of His attributes it is His very nature. Many people like this attribute of God the best and speak of it often. The tragedy is that many of those who speak of God's love have no clue what they are talking about. I have often heard it taught that God loves in a special way, and there was a word invented to talk about this type of love: *agape* love. This is not the case. *Agape* is the transliteration of the Greek work for love. *Agape* simply means love. It is not from the word itself that we can gather any special information, but from the context of the Word of God. I would like to draw out three very important aspects of this attribute of God.

First, God's love is uninfluenced. By this I mean that there is nothing in the objects of His love to call it into exercise, nothing in the creature to attract or prompt it. We love one another because of different reasons, we are attracted to one another physically, a person we love is like us, etc... In each case there is something that prompts us to love someone else. We see in Deut. 7:7-8, one sees that God chose to love Israel in spite of who they are, the fewest in number.

Second, God's love is sovereign. That is since God Himself is sovereign (meaning under obligations to none, a law unto himself, acting always according to his own pleasure.) God is God, and He does as He pleases. Since God is sovereign and since He is love, it follows that His love is sovereign. So God loves whom He pleases. We see this in passages like Romans 9:13 where He says "Jacob have I love, but Esau have I hated". There is no more reason to love Jacob over Esau. Both were born at the same time to the same parents, and it was written before either had done anything good or bad.

And finally, God's love is holy. "God is light" (1 John 1:5) is mentioned before "God is love" (1 John 4:8) in 1 John. God's love is not regulated by impulse, passion, or sentiment, but by principle. His holiness overshadows all His attributes. God does not wink at sin, even in His own people (Heb. 12:6). If God did wink at sin, Christ died for no reason. God has gone to great lengths to manifest or show His love for us.

Let's not forget that God's love is also eternal (Jeremiah 31:3), infinite (Eph. 2:4), immutable (James 1:17), and gracious (John 3:16 & 34). I recommend *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God* by D.A. Carson for further study on this matter. God bless you all and have a happy Valentine's Day.

Travis Tyler

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

2	Personnel Committee Meeting	6:45 pm
4	Church Directory Photos	3:00-9:00 pm
5	Church Directory Photos	3:00-9:00 pm
6	Church Directory Photos	10:00 am-4:00 pm
7	Churchwide Salad Fellowship (youth fundraiser)	12:00 pm
7	Business Meeting	7:00 pm
7	Youth Super Bowl Party	5:30 pm
9	JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship	12:00 pm
11	Stewardship Committee Meeting	6:45 pm
13	Men's Bible Study	9:00 am
13	Adult Valentine Banquet	6:30 pm
14	Sunday School Training	12:00 pm
21	Deacons' Meeting	8:00 am
21	Sunday FunDay (young adults)	12:00 pm
26	Woman2Woman	6:30 pm
28	Widows' Luncheon	12:00 pm
28	Student Ministries Team Meeting	12:00 pm

Valentines at the Oscars

Saturday, February 13
6:30 pm



Menu

Oscar Chicken w/ Bow Tie Pasta
Glamorous Green Beans
Statuette Salad
Red Carpet Strawberry Mousse
Velvety Lemon Rosemary Cake

Tickets cost \$5 and must be purchased
in advance at the Connect Center.

Childcare will be provided.
(Parents, please pack a dinner for your child).

The deadline to purchase tickets is
Sunday, February 7.

Student Pastor

CHURCH-GOING 101

After much contemplation on what to write about in the new year (new decade), I decided that we could all use a refresher course on church-going. So whether you're fairly new to church, or if you wrote the book on pew-sittin', this one's for you! So...for our first class...

SUNDAY SCHOOL

I like to think of Sunday School as the most casual part of the formal Sunday services. It's like the meet-and-greet with hors d'oeuvres before the feast begins. Originally, Sunday School was designed to teach lay people how to read and write. Though I'm sure the Bible was used, the main point wasn't to teach spiritual truth, but to bribe people into coming to church. But let's not throw the baby out with the bath water. Sunday School is now the premier place where we are obedient to the Scriptural command to teach the Word.

"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also..."

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness..." – II Timothy 2:2 & 3:16

While the Bible places the responsibility of training up and teaching the next generation solely on the parents, Sunday School is a great place for people of all ages to sit down with others and be taught the Bible. Sunday School is also a great place for lost people to be introduced to the church, and to the Bible, and to Jesus!

In order to be good Sunday School pupils/classmates, follow these simple rules:

1. If you don't have anything nice to say, then...find something nice to say!

A good Sunday School class requires good discussion. Awkward silences are okay sometimes...but seriously...speak up! And men...step up and read (I know it's scary the first time) when the teacher asks for someone to read a passage of Scripture...don't let the women have all the fun!

2. Listen to your teacher!

Sunday School is a class setting with teachers and pupils after all. As good students of *anyone* who is teaching the Bible, we should always strive to be good listeners. And, on top of that, we are to be studious as well. When you hear biblical truth...you should always make sure that it is biblical...and truth!

"Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." – Acts 17:11

3. Respect one another; Play nice; Don't eat the glue.

But seriously...Sunday School is one of the best places to get plugged into your church body and minister to one another. Don't waste time with your fellow church members...make full use of your time and your gifts. Let's have a heart to serve one another.

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but the same God who empowers them all in everyone." – Ephesians 4:32 & I Corinthians 12:4-6

Put me in coach!

Brian Joines

YOUTH



PARTY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

AT THE WATTERS' HOME

We will leave the church at 5:30 pm



CHURCHWIDE

Salad Bar Fellowship

Sunday, February 7

12:00 pm



This youth fundraiser is to raise money for the mission trip to Mobile, Alabama.

Cost

\$5 for adults

\$3 for senior adults, college students, and children (10 & under)

Worship Pastor

February 14 is right around the corner. For those with a significant other, the day is known as Valentine's Day. For the rest of us, it often feels more like "Singles Awareness Day" (or S.A.D.). Being single in our culture is an interesting and challenging experience. For many singles, finding a partner for life has become the very definition of happiness in life and therefore the driving purpose of living. In order to prepare for a future marriage that reflects what the Bible prescribes marriage to be in Ephesians 5, I propose the following redefinitions.

First, we need to redefine our attitudes as single adults. Our world has come up with so many ways to find a date: from pick-up lines to online dating to a friendly and well-intentioned "set-up," we are obsessed with dating and we have elevated it to a place that causes an unhealthy amount of anxiety, pressure, and distraction. We need to reflect the Christ-like attitude of contentment and hopefulness of God's sovereignty in all things, including our future spouse. As regenerate beings called to be transformed by the grace of God, we should heed the words of Psalm 37 and focus more on God's grace than our problems that need solving. The Psalm says "delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." Too often we try to turn this upside down, delighting ourselves in our own desires and hoping for the Lord's blessing. Even if our desires are totally pure and right, we have no way of dictating or predicting God's timing or purposes.

Second, we need to redefine what love means to us. We need to redefine love as selfless rather than self-centered. We need a radical transformation in our attitudes toward love. Rather than seeking after what we think we need or want to be happy, we should view love as the act of seeking after how to best serve another. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 says, "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised." In his book *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, Joshua Harris writes, "The Bible teaches us that if we truly trust in Jesus Christ, we die to our old way of living. And we can no longer live for ourselves—we now live for God and for the good of others. Because of that, relationships with the opposite sex can no longer be about 'having a good time' or 'learning what I want in a relationship.' They're not to be about getting, but giving. Every relationship for a Christian is an opportunity to love another person like God has loved us. To lay down our desires and do what's in his or her best interest. To care for him or her even when there's nothing in it for us. To want that person's purity and holiness because it pleases God."

Finally, we need to redefine how we view the marriage relationship itself. Ephesians 5:22-33 is a passage about Christ's love for the Church that uses God's institution of marriage as a beautiful illustration. We need to radically change our understanding of marriage to realize that God did not ordain the institution of marriage primarily for our pleasure or happiness, but for our sanctification and His glory in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Marriage is a wonderful thing that brings great joy, but also equips both husband and wife to more faithfully live and proclaim the gospel. Gary and Betsy Ricucci, writers of *Love That Lasts*, answer the question "What is marriage?" Part of that answer deals with Ephesians 5: "One of the most beautiful analogies God uses to define His relationship with us is that of a marriage. To grasp this is both inspirational and sobering. People should be able to look at our marriages and say, 'So that's what the church is like? That's what it means to have a relationship with Jesus?' God intends to cultivate the same abundant, unconditional love between a husband and wife as He Himself has for us. Marriage is a profound and marvelous mystery established by God for His glory."

I encourage single adults in the church to adopt these redefinitions and begin practicing Christ-like patience, hopefulness, love, and humility in order to prepare themselves for an Ephesians 5 marriage.

To those married people in the church, I encourage you to practice demonstrating what a true Ephesians 5 marriage looks like, exhibiting selflessness, sacrifice, devotion, and love. You should encourage singles to "make the best use of time" (Eph. 5:16) and live to serve Christ during the unique season of singleness rather than being driven to find a spouse. Singleness is not a problem that needs fixing—it is a blessing from God for an appointed time with a specific purpose. It is an opportunity to serve Him in a unique way: preparing, praying, and practicing for a future life in marriage that will represent the gospel of Jesus Christ and His great love for us.

John Strickland

Kids of the Kingdom

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." – John 15:12

We are to love each other as Jesus loved us, and He loved us enough to give His life for us. We probably won't have to give our life for someone, but we need to show love to others by listening, helping, encouraging, and giving. I encourage you to think of someone who needs this kind of love today and send a note to them to show God's love. Give all the love you can and try to give a little more to those around you; so that your children will see by your example and want to do the same.

Remember early next month we will be doing registration for the September through May school year. If you would be interested in your child or grandchild attending, please call me at ext 105.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our program.

In His love,
Marsha



FSBC-FK STAFF

TRAVIS TYLER SENIOR PASTOR
BRIAN JOINES STUDENT PASTOR
JOHN STRICKLAND WORSHIP PASTOR
WES FLEMING STUDENT MINISTRIES INTERN

Just Older Youth Valentine Fellowship

Tuesday, February 9
12:00 pm

We will be going to the Golden Corral in Clarksville.
Meet at the church at 11:30 to share a ride
or meet us at the restaurant at 12:00 pm.



February Birthdays

- 1 Jarrett Kelley
- 2 Crystal Hale
- 2 Bill Stepp
- 4 Cary Schooley
- 4 Ron Schulz
- 5 Peggy Cruse
- 8 Macy Allen
- 9 Donna Stepp
- 10 Becky Watters
- 12 Stephen Coots
- 13 Dutton Taylor
- 13 Travis Tyler
- 14 Sophia Gresh
- 15 Helen Reed
- 17 Doc Watts
- 21 Robin Allen
- 22 TJ Flick
- 22 Kevin Hoss
- 22 Brenda Trail
- 25 Micah Jones
- 27 Alex Adams
- 28 Wendy Ferrara



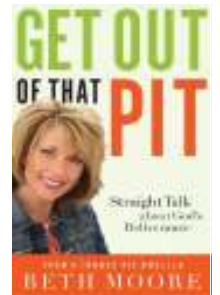
February Anniversaries

- 11 Maggie & Wayne Peak
- 23 Gertrude & Charles Lenson

If you or someone you know in our church has a birthday or anniversary in February and their name does not appear on the above lists, please contact the church office at 812.923.7905, ext. 104.

Woman2Woman

Ever feel too busy, depressed, overwhelmed, etc...? Well, we want to invite you to the Women's Event: Get Out of the Pit! It is based on the book by Beth Moore, *Get Out of That Pit*. We will come together for a time of worship and teaching on Friday, February 26 at First Southern in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. We encourage you to invite friends, neighbors, family, co-workers, etc. to attend this event. We hope you will join us as we focus on getting out of "pits" in life and living free in Jesus Christ!

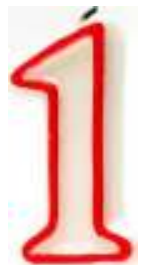


Blessings!
Becki Tyler and The Women's Ministry Team

Asher's First Birthday Bash!

We would like to invite all of our church family to come and celebrate Asher's first year of life. It will be an Open House on Sunday, February 14 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in the fellowship hall at church. We hope you will join us with just your presence as we celebrate one of God's greatest blessings to our family, our sweet baby boy...Asher :)

Love and Blessings!
Travis and Becki Tyler



New Church Directory

Please stop by the table in the foyer to schedule your photography session for the new church directory and/or to sign up to help the days the photographs will be taken, February 4, 5 and 6. You can also schedule your photography session by going online at fsbc-fk.org and click on the Lifetouch link at the bottom of the screen. Each church member will get a complimentary 8x10, a directory, and a 20% winter discount!

