

Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

Order of Services

Sunday, November 25, 2012

Song Leader	Bob James
Prayer	Tom Dolan
Preaching	Dan Wydro
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Bob Celentano
Prayer for the Cup	Derald Sanchez
Prayer for the Collection	Lee Redd
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Closing Prayer	Ralph Ruggiero
Announcements	Brian Jeffries

Sunday, December 2, 2012

Song Leader	Tom Dolan
Prayer	Lee Redd
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Cup	Glenn Montgomery
Prayer for the Collection	David Osinski
Assisting at the Table	Gennaro Ruggiero
Closing Prayer	Bob Celentano
Announcements	Matt Grimaldi

Schedule of Weekly Services

Sunday Morning Bible Classes	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Classes	7:30 pm

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Living with Others...

The book of 1st Peter has been called a book of relationships. This is because throughout the book the apostle provides instruction on how Christians should interact with various people. He addresses our relationship to outsiders in 1Peter 2:11-12, to government in 1Peter 2:13-17, to masters in 1Peter 2:18-25, to husbands in 1Peter 3:1-6, and to wives 1Peter 3:7. In the text for this article Peter gives a summary of the qualities which we should express in our relationships with every person who comes into our lives ... especially those who are brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Be of one mind" (1Peter 3:8) – Some commentaries say that a better translation of this phrase would be, *"Live in harmony with one another!"* The reason being is that the word translated as *"one mind"* or *"harmony"* literally means "unity," "akin," or "together." God has called us as His sons and daughters to live in harmony with Him and with one another. It is His desire for us to be growing continually into a unity of the faith and a unity of the knowledge of Jesus Christ so that we may grow into maturity to become more and more like Jesus Christ Himself (Ephesians 4:13).

Many of us have witnessed the harmony of an orchestra when all the instruments are in tune and all the musicians are following the lead of the conductor. And some of us have been thrilled to watch a sports team which is playing together with perfect unity as opposed to each player doing his or her own thing. This should be the experience of all our lives ... especially within the church.

The oneness and the harmony which our Lord desires for the church must begin with us. The church is people ... the people of God. When we are living under the *lordship* of Jesus Christ and are in tune with Him, we are in harmony with our brothers and sisters in Christ. When there is disharmony and disunity in the church, sin is present. The solution is most always spiritual ... not organizational. We must seek the will of the Lord together ... and do it. Then there will be harmony.

"Have compassion for one another" (1Peter 3:8) – Here some translations use the word "sympathy" instead of "compassion". Peter instructs us to be sympathetic or compassionate toward one another.

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For "HE WHO WOULD LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYERS; BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL." (1 Peter 3:8-12 NKJV)

As members of the church we need always be aware that at any given time there are those who in our congregation who are hurting and who need our sympathy and compassion. Reaching out in love to these, our brethren, needs to be a part of our spiritual fellowship. The people of God should always be able to share their needs and hurts with one another.

The apostle Paul exhorts us in Galatians 6:2 ...

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2 NKJV)

Paul also reminds us that within the body of Christ, when one member suffers, we all suffer (1Corinthians 12:26), and that we should rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15). Truly, this spirit of sympathy and compassion is analogous to the very spirit of Christ.

"Love as brothers" (and sisters) (1Peter 3:8) - The word used in this text for "love" is not *agapē* but rather is the compound word *philadelphos* which is best translated as "brotherly love." Peter is not suggesting that we should love one another within the church with a quality of love which is secondary to, or less than the quality of *agapē*. One commentator says that here Peter is using a "family vocabulary" to emphasize that we are members of the "family of God" and are brothers and sisters in Christ with God as our Father.

Instructions for us to love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ are many in the New Testament, including the instruction from Paul to *"be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love"* (Romans 12:10).

The writer of Hebrews encourages us to *"let brotherly love continue"* (Hebrews 13:1). In other words, this should be the continual lifestyle for brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Be tenderhearted" (1Peter 3:8) – The reference to be *"tenderhearted"* is to be *"kindly"* or *"pitiful."* Here again, it symbolizes the very Spirit of Christ. If we are to live for Christ, or if we are to allow Him to live in and through us, we must be tenderhearted. Of this thought someone once said that *"our hearts need to be broken with the things that break the heart of our Lord."*

One of the first verses of Scripture that many of us learned as children may have been ...

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32 NKJV)

Of course, we must not only believe the message of that verse ... we must live it!

"Be courteous" (1Peter 3:8) – I found it interesting that the word translated here as *"courteous"* is from the same root word as the one translated *"friend."* It means literally to be *"friendly of mind"* or to be *"courteous in our attitude."*

Here again, we are reminded that we are not merely to love those who love us, but to be loving and courteous to all who come into our lives ... like Christ. The challenge is to treat others with the same courtesy and love that we would extend to a dear friend. And this must not be done merely mechanically or as a religious duty. It must begin with a *"courteous"* or *"friendly"* attitude.

Be a blessing (1Peter 3:9-12) - We who belong to Christ and are *possessed* by Him should be a blessing wherever we go and through whatever we do. To be sure, we live in a world in which we are often confronted by evil. Our natural response is to do evil to those who do evil to us. But Peter reminds us of the basis of Christian ethics and lifestyle ... we should not render evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, we should do good to those who are evil towards us. It's as though Peter is instructing us to be a blessing to others as a part of our Christian calling (1Peter 3:9).

The New English Bible has an interesting translation of this verse ...

"Do not repay wrong with wrong, or abuse with abuse; on the contrary, retaliate with blessing" (1Peter 3:9 NEB)

The thought here seems to be that we should be on the offensive in being a blessing to our society, and we should be especially aggressive in bringing blessings to those who do evil to us.

We must always remember the fact that when we bring blessings to others, we are blessed ourselves ... the goodness of God is a blessing to everyone.

This, my brother and sister, is a wonderful way to live ... like Christ!

... **Bob James**

Our Prayer List...

- ⤴ Donna Banghart ... Georgia DeLorenzo ... Glenn Montgomery's father ... Mary Celentano ... our young people here at Washington ... our young people away at college ... the men and women in military service ... leaders of our nation ... leaders of our congregation ... our congregation ... those impacted by the hurricane.
- ⤴ Many of our members, and/or their families, will be traveling over the next few days. Please remember them in our prayers.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15 NIV)

Coming Events - Home & Away...

- ⤴ Though it's still a few months away, we are planning our Spring 2013 Gospel Meeting with Tommy Peeler from FC. The dates are March 10th – 13th ... that's Sunday – Wednesday. Please plan your 2013 spring vacations and travels around that date if at all possible.

Items of Note...

- ⤴ Remember, as a part of our Bible School program each family should strive to have a review each week of the material discussed in our classes. This week we will cover The First Sin and Cain & Abel (Genesis 3 – 5) and next week we will study the Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6 – 10).
- ⤴ Anyone desiring a family or an individual Bible Study should contact me (Bob James). I typically keep Tuesdays and Thursdays open for these studies.