

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A MODEL OF LOVE

There are two common Greek words translated, “new.” *Krinos* speaks of something that is new in the moment. *Kainos* speaks of something that is a new in kind. Our Lord says, “A new kind (*Kainos*) of commandment I give unto you.” The Law regulated loving relationships with the last six commandments. Jesus summarized the last part of the Decalogue when He said, “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Mt. 22:39). The “new kind” of love that He commands is a love that He has modeled.

CHRIST MODELED AN UNENDING LOVE (Jn. 13:1). Jesus provided the ultimate model of unending love (Jn. 15:13).

CHRIST MODELED AN UNSELFISH LOVE (Jn. 13:4). When Christ put on a towel, He acted as a servant. Real love is not self-seeking (I Cor. 13:5).

CHRIST MODELED AN UNCONDITIONAL LOVE (Jn. 13:13-17). Jesus willingly gave Himself for sinners (Rom. 5:8). Even when betrayed and abandoned by His disciples, He continued to love them!

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A MOTIVATION FOR LOVE

Jesus said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another” (Jn. 13:35). For the believer, loving others is a big deal!

TRUE CHRISTIAN FAITH IS DISCERNED BY LOVE. Where there is no love for fellow believers, there is no genuine faith (I Jn. 4:7-8, 20-21). As the Spirit of God comes to live within the believer, He produces the fruit of love (Gal. 5:22). Where there is no fruit there is no faith.

TRUE CHRISTIAN FAITH IS DISPLAYED BY LOVE. The proof of our faith is not “earnestly contending for the faith.” The proof of our faith is not discovered by our abundance of knowledge.

*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one for another (John 13:35).*



CONNECTING TO COLONIAL'S CORE
Our Walk - 4

PASTOR PHELPS
August 24, 2014

SWEETNESS IN FELLOWSHIP

From the first family echoes a question for the ages – “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen. 4:9) The Covenant of Colonial Hills Baptist Church assumes that our answer is, “Yes.” Every member of Colonial Hills is in a covenant relationship that requires them to, “Engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling, and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of the Savior, to secure it without delay.” Simply put, sweetness of fellowship is a core value of every member of Colonial.

In order to *Connect to our Core* by discovering our *DNA (Distinctively Nonnegotiable Attributes)*, we must be reminded of our purpose and our practice.

THE PURPOSE OF COLONIAL HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

Colonial Hills Baptist Church exists to glorify God (Eph. 3:21) by evangelizing the lost (Matt. 28:19-20), exalting Him in worship (John 4:24) and equipping believers to walk worthy of the Christ (Col. 1:10).

COLONIAL'S PRACTICE

Our Worship: The DNA of our Corporate Assembly.

1. Scripture-Saturated, Savior-Centered Preaching - Jn. 17:17.
2. Soul-Stirring Singing that Glorifies God – Col. 3:16.
3. Supplication before the Throne of Grace – Matt. 21:13.
4. Sacrificial Giving – I Cor. 16:2.
5. Sharing Communion – I Cor. 11:24.

CONNECTING

COLONIAL'S PRACTICE

Our Walk – The DNA of our Individual Activity.

1. Studying the Scriptures – II Tim. 2:15.
2. Speaking the Gospel – Rom. 1:16.
3. Serving with Excellence – Rom. 12:11.
4. Sweetness in Fellowship – I John 4:7
5. Separated from the World – I John 5:15-17.

God created mankind to be companionable (Gen. 2:18). Sadly, sin is a wedge that separates us from one another (Is. 53:6). It is the sin-sick heart that seeks the solitude of darkness (Jn. 3:19). God's will is that we walk in the fellowship of the light (I Jn. 1:7). The Loving Redeemer does not want us to be Lone Rangers (Rom. 12). Every believer is called upon to enjoy the sweetness of Christian fellowship (I Jn. 4:7).

The New Testament exhorts believers to engage in specific activities that enable the body of Christ to function effectively and grow spiritually. The Greek word, *allelon*, is found fifty-eight times in the New Testament and is often translated, "one another." There are at least twelve significant expectations of believers as they live in sweet fellowship with one another:

1. Be devoted to one another (Rom. 12:10).
2. Be willing to honor one another (Rom. 12:10).
3. Be at peace with one another (Rom. 15:5).
4. Be accepting one another (Rom. 15:7).
5. Be willing to admonish one another (Rom. 15:14).
6. Be careful to greet one another (Rom. 16:3-6, 16).
7. Be willing to serve one another (Gal. 5:13).
8. Be available to bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2).
9. Be patient with one another (Eph. 4:2).
10. Be submissive to one another (Eph. 5:21).
11. Be encouraging one another (I Thes. 5:11).
12. Be praying for one another (Jm. 5:16).

A careful consideration of the believer's responsibilities to other believers makes it apparent that Christians cannot fulfill their duties while remaining anonymous. In a generation of generic, anonymous, big-box Christianity, Colonial Hills Baptist Church seeks to live out the teachings of God's Word through active involvement with one another!

Archbishop Usher, of the Church of England, once visited the religiously independent coast of Ireland. It was his desire to visit in the home of Pastor Rutherford, a pastor well-known as a man of God. Without introducing

himself by title, Usher arrived at the Rutherford's home and asked permission to stay through the Lord's Day. During the family Bible study hour, he was asked, "How many commandments are there?" Much to everyone's surprise, Usher answered, "There are eleven!"

"No, you are wrong," said Pastor Rutherford.

"I'm quite certain that I am right," responded Archbishop Usher.

"Show me the eleventh commandment!" demanded Pastor Rutherford.

Bishop Usher picked up the Bible and turned to the words of Jesus found in John 13:34 – "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

Colonial Hills Baptist Church will be a place of sweet fellowship as each member seeks to live the "Eleventh Commandment."

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A MANDATE TO LOVE

Let's place the Lord's counsel in its context. The 13th chapter of the Gospel of John is a passage that pulsates with love. The very first verse of John 13 confirms that the Lord's love for His own was steadfast. The One who loved His own to the end has given us a mandate to "love one another."

THIS MANDATE IS SHARED EXCLUSIVELY. Jesus did not introduce the eleventh commandment until Judas was gone from the assembly (Jn. 13:27, 30-31). There is a very special relationship that is enjoyed by those who are related to one another in Christ (I Jn. 1:3).

1. Christians are to prioritize their relationship with one another (Gal. 6:10).
2. Christians enjoy a unique relationship with one another as a family in Christ (Eph. 3:15; 4:4-6, 16).

THIS MANDATE IS SHARED TENDERLY. Jesus uses terms of endearment, calling His disciples, "Little Children," in order to remind them that they are each precious to Him. Those who are purchased by the blood of Christ ought to be precious to every member of the body of Christ.

THIS MANDATE IS SHARED FORCEFULLY. Jesus commands His followers to, "Love one another." Since this is a command, we can be sure that there will be accountability for how we fulfill it. Commandments are not only fulfilled when we have the "emotional capacity." Commandments are fulfilled through actions not intentions.