

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

November 3, 2019

The Most Difficult Command

What do you think is the most difficult command God has given us? I'm sure you could think of many options. I'm guessing the rich young ruler in *Matthew 19* thought selling all his property and giving it to the poor was the most difficult thing God expected. And that would be tough, wouldn't it? Others might think the command in *Luke 9.23* to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus might be the most difficult thing to do. What about the command to make every effort to live at peace with all men (*Hebrews 12.14*)? All men? Really? That is challenging.

To decide which command God has given is the most difficult of all may not be possible, or even necessary. But this question came to my mind when I read *1 Corinthians 16.14*: "*Let all that you do be done in love.*" Now, that's a tall order!

This is not a difficult command because it is hard to understand. It's a pretty simple statement. Do everything in love. You'd need help to misunderstand this. No, what makes this so challenging is that it is so *unnatural* for us. We do not naturally love like God does, especially in everything we do. God's love is *agape* love, meaning that love is constantly looking for a way to do good to others regardless of how that love is received or re-

turned. God is the epitome of “*Let all that you do be done in love.*” And through His transforming power, that is what we can become, but it goes against our human nature. Our love is inconsistent. Our love is conditional. Our love is biased. Our love is selfish.

It’s not natural for husbands and wives to treat each other with love all day every day. It’s not natural for parents to be 100% loving to their children all the time. It’s not natural for us to always be loving towards our neighbors or co-workers or even our friends. It’s not natural for us to do everything in love when in traffic or at ball games or in politics. It’s not natural for us to love the lost so much we will sacrifice our time, money and energy in taking the gospel to the whole world.

It’s not natural. It’s very difficult. *But it is possible.* I know it’s possible because that what God says He expects of us. That’s why He taught us that the greatest command is to love Him with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and the second greatest command is to love our neighbors as ourselves (*Mark 12.30-31*). That’s why it was necessary for Jesus to become flesh and go to the cross ... so that we could witness love in action. That’s why God gave His powerful, active word (*Hebrews 4. 12*) that can transform our minds to become like Him (*Romans 12.2*).

Doing everything in love is a most difficult command. But it is possible!

— Joe Chesser

The Proof of Your Religion

Love one another.

— John 13:34

David Doubilet, the most-published photographer for *National Geographic*, is a master craftsman who produces breathtaking underwater pictures.

Environmentalists berate him for not publishing hard-edge pictures of polluted oceans, grungy beaches, and dead fish.

But Doubilet believes the way to inspire people to be environmentally sensitive is to show the beauty God has created, not the mess humans have made.

Jesus said discipleship should be displayed in the beauty of love, as opposed to the worldly pollution of discord. “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (Jn 13:35).

Our witness is most effective when people see that our religion causes us to treat each other respectfully.

*Love is the trademark of discipleship.
It's as simple—and as difficult—as that.*

— Joe Barnett

Comforted To Comfort

Who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. II Corinthians 1:4

God reminds us that we can always find good reasons to thank Him. When we are afflicted in any way, we know that our God of all comfort will be there help us. At the same time, the combination of affliction and comfort gives us the ability to help those who are troubled but don't know God. Let's not just complain when we are afflicted, but think of it as a training session for lifting up ourselves and others in the future. Let's think of God, and think of others. It will take our mind off ourselves.

— David Grubb

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Flavoring packets for water, Rice Krispy Treats, Little containers of ravioli, Easy Mac & Cheese, Soups in pull tab cans, Hormel dinners in small oval containers (*Dinty Moore, turkey and dressing, beef and mashed potatoes*)

Birthdays : Silas Christner Nov.-7 (*grandson of Greg*)
 Scott Shumard ... Nov.-7

Reading : **Luke 10: 25-37 ; Psalm 103: 6-14**

NEXT WEEK : (November 10, 2019)

Song Leader : **Greg**

Scripture Reader : **Butch**

Table & Announcements : **Bob**

**The smallest deed is better
than the biggest intention.**

Prayer List :

Ruby Miller : Sister Ruby had a severe fall at Walmart which put her in the hospital with a broken vertebra and a broken knee. She is now in Rm 403 at Shelby Manor. She welcomes visitors, but is easily confused so introduce yourself to her.

Andy Nichols : He has been diagnosis with a-fib, and is now at home where he has started a course of treatments/meds..

Susan Bales : Rosanne's mother had surgery on Wednesday. As of now, she remains unable to walk and in pain. In two weeks she'll go to the doctor for a referral to physical therapy.

Betty Lowe : Will find out about treatment next Weds., Nov. 6

Ruby Bradd : The 2 yr old daughter of Stephen & Ranae is battling a very aggressive form of cancer.

Bob Wearherford : father-in-law of Jason Uphoff - no update.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Marge, Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Betty, Pete & Hazel,

Others with ongoing issues :

Doris Faulkner : Rm. 603 in Alzheimer's unit at the Manor.

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law is holding his own.

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend has severe kidney failure due to diabetes. His condition is deteriorating.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !

