

# Pastor's Pen

Marks of a Disciple

1. Love for God
2. Love for the People of God

Last week, we looked at the first mark of a disciple, a love for God. This week the second mark of a disciple.

The second mark of a disciple is not just any love, but a love for others. Jesus commanded, ***"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you (Jn. 15:12).*** To be a disciple of Jesus Christ, you must embody this love for other Christians. This is how the world will recognize our love for God. The Bible speaks loud and clear that a mark of a true disciple of Christ is their love for fellow believers, ***"By this, all will know that you are My disciples if you have a love for one another (Jn.13:35)."***

Paul is our great example of a disciple's love for God's people. Why did Paul suffer so much for the sake of the Gospel? He writes to the church in Philippi, ***"For it is only right for me to think this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are fellow partakers with me in this grace. For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. (Phil. 1:7-8)."***

Paul suffered whippings, beatings, imprisonments, stoning, and shipwrecks all for the sake of the Gospel. His love for Jesus and His people allowed him to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. This is the call for every believer, to suffer for Christ (Jn.15:18-21). Love must be our motivation, not only for Christ but other believers.

Michael J. Gorman writes, "For those who confess the love of God in the death of Jesus, two existential corollaries automatically follow: suffering for others is inevitable, and suffering for others must be motivated by love in order to be worthwhile."

To be a disciple of Christ means to love the body of Christ. To love Christ is to love all those who love Him. If we do not love fellow believers, we are self-deceived, and the love of Christ does not dwell within us (1Jn 4:7-8). In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, the authors say it plainly, "Love stems from a regenerate nature and also from fellowship with God, which issues in knowing Him. The absence of love is evidence that a person does not know God. Love for other Christians is critical in the life of a believer. The absence of love is evidence that a person does not know God."

Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

## Quote of the Week

"No matter how doctrinally sound we may be, if we are without love, we are "a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal" (1 Corinthians 13:1). Without love for others, regardless of how involved we are in Christian activities, we are nothing."  
-Steve Lawson

# Grace Gems

Put on a heart of compassion!  
(Alexander Smellie, "The Hour of Silence" 1899)

***"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved — put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."*** Colossians 3:12

"Put on a heart of compassion," says the wise apostle. Some elect and gracious souls seem, indeed, to have this compassionate heart from the very outset of their lives. Love is their vital breath and their native air. It comes to them naturally and spontaneously . . .

as the bird sings simply because it must,  
as the flower unfolds and cannot help itself,  
as the fountain bubbles up irresistibly to the surface.  
But how good it is for me, who have no inborn faculty of loving, that I may put on a heart of compassion!  
I can do it by asking God, day after day, to subdue my selfish, censorious, critical, untender, evil heart!  
I can do it by perpetually recollecting Christ, who went about ever doing good, and who has left me an example that I should follow in His steps.  
I can do it by begging, morning by morning, the grace of the Paraclete, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.  
I can do it by the endeavor to put myself in the place of others, and to comprehend their difficulties and temptations.  
I can do it by watching always for opportunities of lifting up the bruised reed and of fanning the smoking flax.  
I can do it, as Robert Levett with his single talent did, by "little unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

Thus the heart of compassion may grow and thrive, even within me! Thus my harsh and proud and critical spirit may spread its black wings and fly away from me, never to return again!



# Weekly Gatherings

## Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes  
Ladies Class  
Young Adults    Young Parents  
Youth            Surge  
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM

## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study  
1st and 3rd Saturday  
Women of Grace | 9AM  
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM  
Please check church website  
for start date and directions to each

## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team  
and need to sign up, please contact the  
team leader at the appropriate email  
address on the back of this bulletin.

## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study; AWANA & Surge!

## Service Times

Sunday Services 10:30AM  
Sunday School 9:00AM  
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 06/02/2024

General Offering ..... 11,428.88  
Building Fund ..... 5,736.00  
Uganda Missions ..... 181.00

Total.....\$17,345.88  
Attendance ..... 226

## Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org  
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org  
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org  
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org  
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org  
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org  
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org  
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org  
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org  
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org  
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org  
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org  
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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# Grace Harvest Bible Church

June 09, 2024

Welcome