
The Messenger



"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
Westlake church of Christ, 2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri 63385

Website: westlakechurchofchrist.org

Sunday: AM Bible Study – 9:30 a.m., AM Worship – 10:30 a.m., PM Worship – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday: PM Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Volume 15, Issue 17

Evangelist and Editor:

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May 18, 2014

Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.

MERCY “As Being Yourself ... In the Body”

by L. A. Stauffer

The humanistic, materialistic, secular society of America has very little heart and what heart each citizen has provides very little room for thoughts about others. Our country is an “ego” or “I” centered nation of individuals who need others only as props or a backdrop to enhance their own performances. We the capitalistic people of a prosperous land know little and care less about the feelings of others. Mercy, compassion, sympathy – these are not our long suit.

And what is disturbing – even frightening – is that we Christians get caught up in this spirit. How complacent we are about brethren who are struggling spiritually, suffering physically, fighting loneliness, drowning financially, etc. We sing “Does Jesus Care?” when the real question is – Do We Care?

We know Jesus cares. He was God but entered the flesh as a slave to offer himself for our sins. He became poor that we might become rich. And why did he become a man **“like unto his brethren”**? That he might be a **“merciful”** high priest; that by being in the body himself he might know our infirmities and be touched by our feelings. He walked his mile in our moccasins, was tempted in all points like we, and understands fully and perfectly our needs. He is there daily with mercy and grace to help (see Heb. 2:14, 17, 18; Heb. 4:14-16).

When we learn to think as others think, feel what others feel, and see as others see – we, too, will care. And especially as members of the same body we **“should have the same care one for another”** (I Cor. 12:25). But how is this possible? We must have the mind of Christ – **“not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others”** (Phil. 2:4). Doesn't the so-called “Golden Rule” demand this? **“All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them”** (Matt. 7:12).

To think of others as we think of ourselves is the essence of the “second” command. **“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”** (Matt. 22:39). And the way we do that is exactly as Christ did it: we put ourselves in their bodies. **“Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; them that are ill-treated as being yourselves also in the body”** (Heb. 13:3).

What we must do brethren, first of all, is - remember!!! How many days go by that we never even think about struggling, suffering, hurting brethren? When we do remember we must then meditate - mull over in our minds what these brethren are feeling, thinking, experiencing. Now transfer those infirmities to your own body - imagine yourself in those difficulties. Finally, ask God to strengthen and help the brother and ask yourself what you might do as God’s instrument of mercy.

This is the essence of unselfishness and self-denial that enable us to take up our cross daily and follow in the steps of Jesus (see Luke 9:23). This is the point of the “Good Samaritan” story. As so many of us today, the priest and Levite either didn’t care, wouldn’t take time, preferred not to get involved, or were afraid of getting their hands dirty.

But not so with the Samaritan. He saw himself in that ditch and in that body. He felt the wounds of the victim in his own flesh and poured his own oil and wine over them. He dressed those wounds, set him on his animal, and took him to an inn and paid for his care. Why? Because he **“was moved with compassion”** and **“showed mercy on him”** (Luke 10:33, 37).

This, Jesus says, is the meaning of love - to be moved by compassion and mercy; to be touched by the feelings of others; to remember the infirmities of victims **“as being yourselves also in the body”**.

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” - James 5:16