

# The Lamplighter



## Loving Your Spouse God's Way

What is love?

We ask the question during seminars but usually get blank stares. Not that people don't know the answer, but they usually surmise (correctly) that we are up to something. Everyone has an idea of what love is; the more "enlightened" will launch into the Greek variations of love, but most people equate love to a feeling. Yet, for all the discussion we could have about love, the Bible provides a very simple answer; 1 John 3:16 states: "*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*"

Love is giving; giving of ourselves, to the point of laying down our lives for our brothers; or in marriage, our spouse. But what does that mean on a daily basis? What does it look like? For our answer, we turn to the *love chapter* – 1 Corinthians 13.

The love chapter is the subject of a lot of artwork for Christian homes and usually is at least a mention in wedding ceremonies, but do we really understand what this passage from God's word says to us about loving others and more directly how to express love to our spouse? The chapter begins with the admonition that one can do all the religious things, possess incredible knowledge or faith, give everything they own to the poor and die for the faith, but without love, it is all worthless. Love is the basis for everything we are as Christians and it should be a daily part of our lives. 1 Corinthians 13 provides an outline of God's ways to love our spouses in some very practical ways.

- **Love is *patient***; the word here is *long-suffering*. Loving our spouse means that we endure offenses or slights and while we certainly should not allow our spouse to sin against us, how often do we angrily react to each and every little wrong we experience? We need to be long-suffering with our spouse and when we must address an issue, do it in love.
- **Love is *kind***; being considerate, helpful, gentle, and mild. Do we look for ways to help our spouse? Are we gentle and mild, even when addressing issues? The answer in most marriages is a resounding "NO!" We love our spouse by being kind to him or her.
- **Love does not *envy***; it is not discontent with another's success, advantages or possessions. It looks to build our spouse up rather than tearing them down. It is not being resentful at giving to our spouse or playing the martyr for not getting what we think we deserve.
- **Love does not *boast***; it does not remind our spouse of *all* we've done for them (while we are usually reminding them what they *haven't* done for us). Which goes along with the next attribute; love is not *proud*. Too often we are overly concerned with what *we* deserve. We don't give because we perceive our spouse is not giving enough; it's pride, and pride will destroy not only our marriage, but all our relationships. (Continued on page 3)





# God's Sacrificial Love by Jennifer Miller

February is known for Love, and the best example is shown when the Lord came to this earth (John 3:16). Why do we share our faith with people? Why do we send missionaries? We do it for the very reason that God's love is so amazing. He is not willing that any should perish. It is what compels us to 'Go and Make Disciples'! The first time 'love' is mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis 22 when Abraham was told to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham acts in obedience not knowing what the outcome would be. Fast forward 2,000 years later and another Father is offering His Son.

For God so loVed the world  
thAt He gave His  
only  
begottEn  
SoN,  
thaT whoever  
believes  
iN Him should not perish  
but havE everlasting life.  
(John 3:16, NKJV)

This is sacrificial love! "He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1John 4:10). You don't have to ask the question, 'Does God truly love me?'. The answer is a resounding YES! It's not difficult to spend time with someone you love. God gives you the power to love others. Who do you know who needs to personally experience the love of God?

## OCC Spiritual Impact Story

Most children in the remote Himba village in Namibia had never played with toys. Their parents are nomadic cattle herders who are often plagued by poverty to the point that it's not uncommon for the children to eat only one meal a day. Kangeloo desperately wanted a doll. Her imagination had become her companion as she would carry around a large stone and pretend that it was her doll, her friend. Kangeloo's mother, Nagee, was overwhelmed with joy as she watched her daughter hold the new doll after the Operation Christmas Child outreach event. Nagee even found a blue scarf and colorful crocheted blanket in the shoebox and used them to secure the doll to her daughter's back, allowing her to carry it just as mothers in the village do with their babies. "This is her first time to receive toys," Nagee said. "I'm so very happy." Her son also received a box with a ball inside. He has never played with an actual ball; children in the village made 'balls' by stuffing plastic inside of socks.

Nagee has prayed for God to meet her family's needs ever since she became a Christian about two years ago. Yet, the shoebox outreach event exceeded anything she thought possible. Nagee is grateful to God not only for providing special gifts for her children, but also the opportunity they had to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She prays that her children will come to faith in Christ at an early age and will not follow the traditions of the Himba culture by worshipping the spirits of ancestors and trusting in the witch doctors.



### Sermon Topics:

Feb 05 AM	<i>Water Walker</i>	Mth 14:25	PM	<i>Complainers</i>	Num 11:1-3
Feb 12 AM	<i>Canaanite Faith</i>	Mth 15:21-28	PM	<i>Criticism &amp; Consequences</i>	Num 12:1-3
Feb 19 AM	<i>God Can</i>	Mth 15:32-38	PM	<i>Spies Like Us</i>	Num 13:1-3
Feb 26 AM	<i>Building the Church</i>	Mth 16:18-19	PM	<i>Israel the Rebel</i>	Num 14:1-4

### Greeter Schedule:

Feb 05 Nick Papanicolas, Dave Bode  
Feb 12 Bob Gill, Paul Dillon  
Feb 19 Darrell Linville, Andy Gibson  
Feb 26 Glenn Miller, Patrick Hancock

### Tellers for month of February:

Shannon Pankhurst, Jeni Irwin

### Sunday Morning Nursery:

Feb 05 Norma Stump, Donna Fleming, Grant & Sara Walker  
Feb 12 Norma Stump, Abby Pankhurst, Kay & Gerald Hancock  
Feb 19 Norma Stump, Sandy Getz, Patrick & Jill Hancock  
Feb 26 Norma Stump, Stephanie Miller, Jill Hancock, Fran Wright

### Sunday Morning Security Team:

8:30 AM

SS & 11:00 AM

Feb 05 Courtney Harbin, Marion Simpson Robert Hicks, Terry Mathews  
Feb 12 Dillon Edelen, Norma Stump Al Law, Betty Lou Moore  
Feb 19 Kevin Guiffre, Courtney Harbin Bob Mathews, Jennifer Miller  
Feb 26 Marion Simpson, Dillon Edelen Jerry Pruitt, Jim Miller



### Children's Worship:

Feb 05 Stephanie Walton, Ruth Dillon, Adrielle Law  
Feb 12 Jennifer Cooke, Jessica Miller, Camden Cooke  
Feb 19 Ellen Nupson, Alison Bode, Laura Dillon  
Feb 26 Hannah Pankhurst, Katie Lusk, Abby Pankhurst

(Continued from page 1)

- **Love is not rude**; acting in a discourteous or impolite way. We need to be concerned with how our behavior affects our spouse. What we have to say may be right, but if we say it in a mean or impolite way, we are rude and not loving.
- **Love is not self-seeking**. Are we seeking the best for our spouse? Or ourselves? Too often we put our self first, rather than putting our spouse first as the Bible teaches.
- **Love is not easily angered**, yet angry reactions often characterize interaction with our spouse. And then we justify it by saying, 'well if they hadn't...'
- **Love keeps no record of wrongs**. Based on this statement, I *could* say that virtually every couple coming for counseling does not love each other (but I won't). They often spend a lot of time listing all the wrongs their spouse has committed throughout their marriage. Love means that we forgive our spouse for wrongs and then let it go.
- **Love rejoices in good, not evil**; are we glad when our spouse reaps the consequences for his or her actions? Or when someone else points out a poor behavior? God's love means that we celebrate the positives and have compassion when things don't go right for our spouse.
- **Love protects**; we are to be our spouse's defender and stick up for him or her. Love *always trusts*; meaning that we look at our spouse's motives positively. We don't assume bad from our spouse.
- **Love always hopes**; we are optimistic regarding our relationship and seek to encourage our spouse rather than tearing them down with the 'you will never...' or 'you'll always be...'
- **Love always perseveres**. We don't get discouraged, but continue to work at our marriage even when things aren't going right. (Continued on page 6)



Debbie Wedding, Buddy Sanders, Melvin King & Charlie Proctor deserve a GREAT BIG

**THANKS**  
FROM ALL OF US

for all of their hard work around our church! Debbie has gotten everything so clean and is at the church all the time making sure everything looks wonderful.

Buddy, Melvin, Charlie and Debbie (as well as other volunteers like Rosa Minehan & Glenn Miller) have worked tirelessly to strip, clean and wax the floors! They are so shiny and clean!

Please make sure to thank them for all of their "behind the scenes" work!!



**WE APPRECIATE YOU!**







# How FBCLP couples are showing **love** to their spouses...



Gordon & Norma Hanson, married 69.5 years

Gordon: Three consistent practices are followed: compassion, consideration and commitment, while each day gives us a renewed assurance of our Lord's presence and provision.

The Laws, married 22 years

Al, "Make sure she feels appreciated."

Karen, "Thank him often for who he is and the things he does"

The Irwins, married 33 years

We both attended FBCLP with our families since childhood.

ALWAYS put Christ first. Then each other. Then the children. Sounds cliché but it works. :) Be self-less! Have fun together and laugh your way through hard times & tears. Lean on each other and most of all, on Jesus.

Glenn & Becky Miller:

Glenn: On February 14th Becky and I will have been married 64 years. What has kept us together is mutual love and respect for each other and as Paul said in Ephesians, being kind, tender hearted, and forgiving.



Scott & Ellen Nupson, married 35 years

Love is a choice and we're commanded to "Walk in love as Christ also loved us." Eph 5:1 Make it an easy choice for your spouse every day.

The Scheniders, married 31 years

Pastor Gary, "Remember important dates. Be loving & forgiving. Listen to the other's side. Go places together to share experiences."

Debbie: Never speak badly or disrespectfully about your spouse. If you don't respect them then no one else will either.

Jennifer & Jim Miller, married 27 years

Marriage advice: Don't go to bed angry, even if the situation is not resolved. Put aside your anger and cool off.

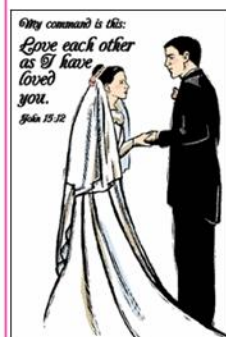


Bob & Terry Mathews, married 46 years

We always try and help each other out, so I guess you could say that's how we show love to each other. Sometimes Bob cooks, and sometimes Terry uses the chainsaw to cut up downed trees. Sometimes Bob cuts up trees and Terry cooks. We have done numerous renovations on our home and never came to blows over them—mostly because Terry has to ask a lot of questions and Bob already has a plan in mind. Bottom line: We do a lot of stuff together and we are always mindful of our redemption through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Jessica & David Hathcock, married 9.5 years

Marriage advice/experience: We put God first in our individual lives and as a couple. Life does not focus on just you...put God first and then your spouse. We always eat dinner together—when first married as a couple with no kids, and now as a family. Dinner always begins with prayer. Trials and hard times should be used as an opportunity to grow closer. Make an effort to daily remember what made you attracted to your spouse from day 1!



# The \$5 OCC Shoebox

FEBRUARY:

Inside Play

Items

**Shopping Spree!**

Travel size board games, card games, marbles, dominoes, slinky, yo-yo, jacks, balloons, spinning tops, puzzles, building sets (lego, etc), lacing cards/beads, rubber ducks/other small animals, stuffed animals/puppets.

**Be on the lookout for after Valentine's Day sales!!!**

**Small-Group News**



**Ladies of the Light** Bible Study- Every Tuesday @ 10 AM (except 1/31/23)

**ROMEO's**- Feb 7th @ 11:30 AM- Foster's Grille

**Women on Mission**- Feb 2nd @ 9:45 AM

**Connect** Bible Study- Feb 2nd & 16th @ 6 PM

**Brotherhood Fellowship**- Feb 4th @ 9 AM

**Widow's Support Group**- Feb 17th @ 12 PM

(Continued from page 3)

You can love your spouse God's way; but it does require some effort and you must definitely die to yourself and seek to give. Yes, you are not Christ, you won't do it perfectly, but with practice, you can do it better. Loving your spouse God's way on a daily basis, means that you:

1. Put up with the little things that bug you.
2. Be considerate, helpful and gentle with your spouse.
3. Build up, rather than tear down your spouse.
4. Don't remind your spouse of all *you* have done for him or her.
5. Think more highly of your spouse than of yourself.
6. Are polite and courteous of your spouse.
7. Seek the best for your spouse.
8. Do not react in anger.
9. Do not remind your spouse of his or her past wrongs.
10. Celebrate the good things and mourn the negatives you see in your spouse.
11. Defend your spouse.
12. Remain optimistic about your relationship.
13. Continue to work on your marriage no matter what.

It would be best if both spouses worked on these attributes of love, but someone has to go first. Someone has to say 'I don't care who deserves what or who gets credit, I'm going to start loving my spouse God's way.' Pick one or two of the listed attributes and begin loving your spouse and see what happens. Perhaps your spouse will want to find out about the change in you and begin his or her own work...

Garner, C. (2015, September 1). Loving Your Spouse God's Way. [www.startmarriageright.com](http://www.startmarriageright.com). <https://www.startmarriageright.com/2015/09/loving-your-spouse-gods-way/>

**for•give**  
/fər'gɪv/ *to Love*

- stop feeling angry or resentful toward (someone) for an offense, flaw or mistake.
- cancel (a debt)



# K i d s C o R n E r



## Mark your calendar with opportunities for the youth to serve:

- Youth Humane Society Drive
- Mission Day Feb. 11 11AM-2PM. This is an opportunity to make crafts for OCC boxes.
- Mission Day March 26 12:30-3 PM- Craft Day for OCC boxes and an Easter Egg Hunt



**PUZZLE**

*A friend in Jesus*

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.

Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.

"Y \_ \_ r \_ my fr \_ nds \_ f  
y \_ d \_ wh \_ t \_ c \_ mm \_ nd. ...  
Th \_ s \_ s my c \_ mm \_ nd:  
L \_ v \_ \_ \_ ch \_ th \_ r."  
JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other." John 15:14, 17, NIV

## LOVE...

is patient  
is kind  
does not want what belongs to others  
does not brag  
is not proud  
does not dishonor other people  
does not look out for its own interests  
does not easily become angry  
does not keep track of other people's wrongs  
is not happy with evil but it is full of joy when the truth is spoken  
always protects  
always trusts  
always hopes  
It never gives up.  
1 Corinthians 13: 4-7  
NIRV



**GOD LOVES ME**



Bible Memory Verse for February:

**Awana Clubs**

Join us for the AWANA Grand Prix on Saturday, 2/4. Check in is at 9 AM with races starting @ 10 AM. Vehicle kits are available for \$5 in the AWANA office.

Win trophies for speed & design!



# Library News

What's New And on the Shelf --Bob Mathews



"Love  
the LORD  
your God  
with all your  
heart...soul  
...mind and...  
strength."

Mark 12:30

## DVD

*God Bless the Broken Road*

*A Matter of Faith*

*Jesus of Nazareth*

*The Harbingers of things to Come*

## Audio

*David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer*

*Tried, Tested, & Triumphant: The Book of Job, Volume 1*

*D.L. Moody: Bringing Souls to Christ*

*Nate Saint: On a Wing and a Prayer*

*Rachel Saint: A Star in the Jungle*

*Billy Graham: America's Pastor*



There are FREE magazines  
located in the foyer near  
the Welcome Center!

Grab a copy of *Parent Life*,  
*Home Life* or *Mature Living*  
to take with you or to give  
to a friend!

Women on Mission would like to thank you all for your generous  
donations of hats, gloves, mittens & socks. Many children in  
Charles County will be much warmer on cold days.



Next WOM meeting will be 2/2/23 @ 9:45 AM in FH. Sandy  
Ganke will be doing a missions presentation and we will be working  
on a project for the OCC boxes. All women are invited to join us.



All requests for the use of church facilities (fellowship  
hall, etc.) need to be made through the secretary. You  
may use the request feature on the church's website,  
email the request, call in the request or leave a note on  
my desk in the office. There is a facilities use calendar  
on the bulletin board in the office that you may check  
before submitting your request (but please do not  
write on it). I do my best to print the updates often  
but please wait to hear back from me before  
finalizing your plans. Thank you! Amanda Hepner



## Upcoming Mission Opportunities

- \* Youth Humane Society Drive
- \* Mission Day February 11th 11-2 PM  
This is an opportunity to make crafts  
for OCC boxes.
- \* Mission Day March 26th- Craft Day for  
OCC boxes and an Easter Egg Hunt
- Pray for Global OCC Connect Conference  
in Orlando, FL.
- \* Coming in March: Annie Armstrong  
(North American) Mission offering



The Schneiders are very  
grateful for all of the cards  
and gifts received during the  
Christmas season. We  
appreciate your continued  
love, prayers and support.



# CONTACT information



04 – Dean & Eileen Howard  
14 – Glenn & Becky Miller

01 – John Osakowicz  
03 – Sandy Getz  
04 – William (Bao) Dinh  
05 – Paul Dillon  
05 – Erin Hancock  
05 – Amy Jewell  
08 – Laura Dillon  
12 – Kristen Gibson  
14 – Shannon Pankhurst  
14 – Mike Pickens  
15 – Brynna Bode  
16 – Jamie Hepner  
18 – Anya Bode  
18 – Marvin McNair  
21 – Sheri Bresnahan  
23 – Cheryl Allison  
23 – Becky Miller  
24 – Gladys Bruce  
26 – Gene Hile  
26 – Michael Jewell  
27 – Kimberly Burgess  
29 – Joyce Hanson



## Upcoming Events:

- 2/4 @ 10 AM AWANA Grand Prix
- 2/11 Mission Day 11-2 PM and Valentine's Dinner @ 5:30 PM
- 2/20 VBS Planning Meeting @ 5:30 PM
- 3/10-3/11 Ignite Men's Conference Lynchburg VA (based on interest...may be live streamed)
- 3/10-3/11 Ladies Retreat to Annapolis (based on interest)



I just want to take a moment to thank everyone for not only welcoming my family (Jamie, Hannah, Kayla) and me to FBCLP but me as your new secretary. I really appreciate all the support, visits to the office to meet me, Christmas gifts & cards! Sincerely, Amanda Hepner

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[www.fbclaplata.org](http://www.fbclaplata.org)  
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**Secretary:** Amanda Hepner 301-934-9040, secretary@fbclaplata.org

**Treasurer:** Terry Mathews 301-752-3648, treasurer@fbclaplata.org

?? ? ? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ? ?

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

A. 200-300  
B. 400-500  
C. 600-700  
D. 800-900

Love

Answer: C

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