

HIGHWAY 32 MESSENGER



Highway 32 Church of Christ

1688 Tri-County Highway

P.O. Box 642

Williamsburg, OH, 45176

www.highway32churchofchrist.com

Elders

Lowell Smith

Ron Smith

Marc Curfman

(513) 553-3703

Sunday Bible Class	10:00AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	11:00AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00PM

Privileged to Serve

Announcements:	Lowell Smith
Song Leader:	Dustin Curfman
Lord's Table	Jim Hutchings Frank Glover Rich Book Bruce Curfman
Opening Prayer:	David Turpin
Sermon:	Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer:	Aaron Humphries
PM Song Leader:	Bruce Curfman

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	38	38
Morn. Assembly	70	73
Sun Eve.	**	**
Wednesday	**	**
Zoom Class	16	**
Contribution:	\$2637.00	\$2484.00

Let God define love

I recently read a letter dripping with sarcasm that mocked various brothers and sisters because according to the writer, their love was a mean love, a hateful love. This angry soul complained that many speak about love but do not practice love. So, the question that needs addressed very often in churches and in the world is what is love? I won't go through the four Greek words here, but will focus on that agape love spoken of in Scripture so often. What is love?

We are told to love one another and thus fulfill the law. 1 Corinthians 13 is called the chapter of love as Paul gives us the qualities of love. Then Romans 12 has much to say about love. That *agape* love is mentioned 110 times in the New Testament. Yet, our personal definitions of love seem to take precedence over God's word. For most, love never rebukes, never corrects, never punished and never rejects. That should seem errant at first glance for good reasons. For we know that God is love (1 John 4:7). Has God never rebuked, corrected or never punished, never rejected? Of course God often disciplines those he loves and protects them from evil.

Years ago a popular Christian author spoke of tough love, making hard choices for the hope of your children and those you love. Tough love doesn't always make everyone happy. In fact, rarely does tough love make most people happy. A child must obey his parents or suffer the consequences of punishment in order not to suffer greater consequences in the world. In faith and in God's family, tough love is unpleasant and often not practiced because no one want to be the "bad guy," no one wants to be judged for their judgment.

Later, another popular Christian author challenged the idea of tough love. Not by saying that we never rebuke or correct but he claims that there is no such thing as tough love, only love. He points out that godly love is not governed by our feelings and emotions but by truth and righteous choices. Reading God's word and 1 Corinthians 13, love is not determined by the feelings of others but the motivation of whatever action is taken. Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. Hebrew 12 tells us that those without discipline are illegitimate children.

Love also protects. The shepherd loves the sheep and protects them. So how does he respond to wolves? Rom. 12:9 declares: ***"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good."*** We live in a world that defends so many wicked, godless actions by declaring them to be acts of love. So much immorality, greed, selfishness is proclaimed to actually be the loving choice because it is what makes some happy. Let us be clear, love and righteousness defined by God are all that matters.

In Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 5, we are instructed, commanded about how to deal with rebellious believers. Separating the flock from the wolves is not an act of hate but of love. But even then, God's guidance of separation from an unruly brother or sister is not with the end goal of punishment but the punishment has the end goal or hope of redemption through honest repentance. We see this in action in 2 Corinthians as the offensive sinner changes, repents and is restored to the family of faith.

Do not be intimidated or made to feel guilty by the rebellious or lawless voices either in the church or the world. Do remove the log from your eye if needed but then understand the obligation to see clearly and remove those specks that also blind souls. Let God define love and not this world of darkness. God's love first and foremost will protect the flock from those deceitful voices, no matter how loudly they protest. And God's love will rebuke when needed. Even Jesus had to correct the Apostle Peter with some of the most painful words imaginable: ***"Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."***

Mark 8:33. Jesus did so out of love and righteousness. Jesus who is meek and mild also cleared the temple of the wicked and hateful souls.

"By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother." 1 John 3:10.

marc

Welcome to Highway 32 Church,

We are a group of Christians worshipping God according to the Teaching in the New Testament. May we all worship our loving Father today with sincere hearts, open and receptive to His Spirit and His love.

July Teachers

Cradle Roll - Libby/Melody
Pre-K-K - Nancy Salisbury
1st-6th - Jessica Mayes

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Frank Glover

Wed. Eve. 7:00 pm – Don Salisbury



July Teacher
Morgan Gelter

Note: Children will go to Bible Hour during the song before the morning lesson.



June
Building & Communion
Linda Shinkle/Betty Sutton

Zoom Meetings – Zoom meeting (II Kings) every Thursday 7pm. See Sue for the link if you would like to participate.

Announcements:

VBS will be July 28-30. 5:30-7:30pm. Ages 6 months to 6th grade. Please see Lindsey to sign up for VBS. Flyers are available to pass out.

Myrna Smith passed away Sunday 6/22/25, she was 85 and we will all miss her. There will be a celebration of Life held on 7/19/25 at 11:00 at the Xenia Church of Christ 444 Country Club Dr., Xenia, OH. 45385 Keep this family in your prayers.

****Plan on staying for the Potluck luncheon after services today.**

A van has been rented to take 28 people to Xenia for Myrna's celebration of life. You must sign up on the list in the lobby today or let Lashanda Smith know by Tuesday at noon. If not enough people sign up this will give them time to cancel the van.

Zoom Class on Thursdays will now be starting with the book of Ecclesiastes at 7pm. If you would like to join see Sue Curfman for the link.

July Birthdays

7/4 Connie Daniel & Kirt Martin
7/7 Adeline Mayes
7/15 Kellie Wright
7/18 Don Salisbury
7/22 Lynn Beard
7/25 Keith Pennington
7/26 Carl Beard
7/27 Betty Sutton

July Anniversaries

7/23 Lynn Prickett

Continue to Remember: Mark Book, Karen Smith, Carol Basham, Ruth Barnes, Paul Sena and our church family.

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."