

## "I Don't Love Her Anymore"

A forty year old man, suffering through the classic "mid-life crisis," sat down to talk to a preacher about his problems. He explained how his marriage of 20 years was no longer satisfying or fulfilling. Finally, he reached the "bottom line." "I just don't love her anymore," he said. "What can I do?"

After a brief moment of reflection, the preacher said decisively, "As I see it, you have only one option." The man perked up with anticipation. Was the preacher going to suggest a divorce? Would he be free to pursue the thrilling lifestyle of the younger generation that he had come to admire? Would this be his chance to regain his fleeting youth? What was the preacher's advice? ... "Seems to me that the only thing left for you to do is REPENT and start loving her again."

So often we hear of married couples who complain that they have "fallen out of love."

By Greg Gwin

That's sad -- but it happens. The real issue is: What do you do when you realize that such a situation exists? The Bible still says the same thing that it has always said. Husbands are to "love your wives" (**Eph. 5:24**), and wives are to "love their husbands" (**Titus 2:4**).

Please note that these are not just suggestions -- they are commands. To fail to love your mate is to commit sin! And sin always requires repentance if there is to be forgiveness. Be careful. Do not confuse commanded love with the gooey, silly infatuation of a teenager. It is far more than that. It is a sacrificial love that seeks the interest of the one loved more than self. It is the kind of love that Jesus has shown us (**Eph. 5:25**).



# The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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## Brotherly Love

By Doy Moyer



### Thoughts to Ponder

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (**John 13:34**)

In our modern day, "love" has many faces. A man may see a woman for the first time and say, "I'm in love." What he means is, "I have a strong attraction." To some, "love" implies lust. Basically, "love" means anything we want it to mean in whatever given circumstance. Some parents think they "love" their children too much to discipline them. Some friends "love" each other too much to rebuke sin. Sadly, some of our twentieth century concepts of love have been projected back into Scripture, and we lose the Biblical application of true love.

Love is characterized much more by action than by feeling. When Jesus commanded His disciples to "love one another, even as I have loved you," (**Jn 13:34**), He was not just telling them to feel warmly about each other. He was commanding action, just as He had acted. It is thus by God's action that we know what real love is all about (**Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn 3:16**). Based upon this, we are told, "let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth" (**1 Jn 3:18**). This kind of love (agape) is to pervade all of our relationships: family, brethren, and even enemies (**Mt 5:44**). It is a love that seeks the best for all involved, and is demonstrated by taking whatever action is necessary to secure that best for the other person.

It may sound a bit trite, but we need more love - Biblical love. If the people of God are to survive well into the next century, then love will be one of the essential reasons for survival. Specifically, we want to consider the love that brethren should have for one another.

The two primary terms for "love" in the Scriptures are agape and phileo. Both terms are very significant when discussing the love that brethren are to have for each other. Agape often indicates love that is based upon high regard or appreciation. It is the demonstration of one's love for another. Brethren are to have this kind of regard for each other (**Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 2:10**). We should appreciate each other for who we are (both God's creatures and God's children), and demonstrate a high regard for one another in seeking what is best for each other. A congregation characterized by this love will do well in the Lord's service.

A congregation without it will quickly die, for it will be filled with those who are selfish and have little regard for anyone else. Phileo is a love based more upon association. It is an affection for someone or something to which we are closely related. For example, James used the term with reference to the world: "friendship (i.e., affection) with the world is enmity with God" (**4:4**). Concerning brethren, the term is combined with "brother" to indicate "brotherly love" (philadelphia), or affection for another believer in Christ based upon the common relationship. In the New Testament, this term is restricted to fellow believers.

As Christians, we have a very special relationship as brethren in Christ. This should invoke great affection for each other. If it does not, then we need to take another look at our relationship with God. Both expressions of "love" encompass our thoughts and actions. There is nothing that a congregation should do or think that does not take into account the affection, regard, and actions toward those who share a common

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**Elders**  
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(334) 734-2133

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class ..... 9:30 AM  
Worship ..... 10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes ..... 7:00 PM

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### Sick

Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Jon Jon Henderson (Suzanne Stagner's cousin)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Amy Baswell Hall	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	John Marvin Rhodes (Toni Herd's cousin)
Lisa Carter (Josh and Luke Carter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)

### January Birthdays

1-Luke Carter  
1-David Ogle  
2-Savannah Spohn  
2-Chuck Hunt  
4-Phillip Box  
6-Erica Seymore  
7-Sarah Darby  
9-Jordan Oldag  
9-Liseth Aragon  
9-Tyler Hudson  
10-Mallory Randolph  
11-Spencer Hall  
11-Shepherd Hall  
13-Meredith McCray  
14-Kendall Parker  
15-Michael Bassie  
18-Scott Vaughn  
21-Jacob Jerkins  
23-Connor Godwin  
25-Caleb Daniels  
25-Sara Lail  
27-Blake Bagents  
30-Kayla Garlock  
30-Kristi Garlock  
31-Jennifer Daniels

### News and Notes

☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey, Brittany Bagents and Jana Hall!  
☒ - New teaching quarter starts today.  
☒ - David Hartsell will see doctor on Jan 12th and learn more about the new tumor.  
☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan.  
☒ - Welcome to new AU student Julian Reid!  
☒ - Please pray for William Herd's cousin's wife, Charlotte Rich, who is near death.  
☒ - There will be a special ladies' study in north AL on Jan 30-31. See Yvette for flyer with more details.  
☒ - Remember the weekend student study on Jan 16-17 (Both Students and adults are invited)  
☒ - Remember our gospel meeting on Jan 18-21 with David Maxson (details on post-cards), this includes our next college devotional/singing on Sunday night Jan 18th!  
☒ - Let us remember the many who are travelling during the holidays.

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salvation. It is the essential mark of Christians that they consider others first.

### Born To Love

Agape and philadelphia are combined in **1 Pt 1:22-23**: "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God." The world is filled with hatred, envy, greed, and strife. When one obeys the gospel, he enters into a new relationship with God and fellow believers. "All things are new" (**2 Cor. 5:17**). This new relationship with others is characterized by "unhypocritical brotherly love" and "fervent love" for one another. This means that the affection we express toward each other must be genuine, and the demonstrations of our love must be with fervor and zeal. We should be eager to show our love and affection, especially for fellow believers. It is a natural outcome of being born again by the word of God. Both love (agape) and brotherly love (philadelphia) are to be added to our lives (**2 Pt 1:7**).

### Essential To Unity

We often stress, and rightly so, the need for truth in maintaining unity in Christ (**cf. Eph. 4:1-6**). Just as essential to unity is the love we must have for one another. After all, love, or lack thereof, is the driving motivation behind our actions toward each other, whether good or bad. If we have this kind of love, then we will be "kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven" us (**Eph. 4:32**). Unity cannot exist long without these attitudes. The apostle Paul, giving the keys to unity and success as servants of God, expressed well the same concept in **Philippians 2:1-4**:

"If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

This conveys the kind of actions and thoughts we should have in our relationships with each other. The apostle then appeals to the example of Christ, who denied Himself and died for us (**vv. 5-8**). This was the greatest love possible (**Jn 15:13**). The point? If Jesus, Himself God, emptied Himself in complete humility and service for others, how much more should we, the lowly creatures, empty ourselves in order to love and serve each other? Imagine if we all had the attitudes stated here. Would we ever see strife, personality divisions, hatred and conten-

tions in local churches? Would bitterness ever raise its ugly head to tear brethren apart? What better demonstrates what true love is among God's people? And what would better prepare the people of God to march as a unit into the next century? Just as a good attitude without truth is vain, so truth will be worthless to us if we do not live out the love we profess and claim to embrace. Jesus said that others will know that we are His disciples by the love (agape) which we have for one another (**Jn 13:34-35**). That's scary! Others may look at how we act toward each other and conclude that we are not what we claim to be. We need to think about this before we get tied up in all kinds of bitter wrangling.

### Essential To Salvation

The apostle John wrote, "The one who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him" (**1 Jn 2:10-11**). "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him" (**3:14-15**). Such passages express the importance of our need to love each other. Unless we do, we cannot abide in the light. We cannot be in a right relationship with God if we are thinking evil about others.

"Love" is a command. This means that we must decide to do it. It is not a matter of turning our emotions on and letting our hearts "feel" the warmth. It is a matter of the will. This is not to say that the heart does not get involved, for everything we do for the Lord needs to be from the heart. But it is to say that we must decide to love because God said so, even if our feelings may be urging us in another direction. As with anything else, once we make the decision, our feelings should follow. If we do not make this decision, we will suffer eternal consequences. Salvation is on the line.

### Conclusion

I know of nothing more practical in its effects than Biblical love. It embraces every aspect of our lives. The greatest command, said Jesus, is to love God with all the heart, soul, strength and mind (**Mk 12:30**). The second is to love neighbor as self. Everything else that we do hangs on these things. All is summed up in this, "'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law" (**Rom. 13:9-10**). It is at the root of our relationship both to God and one another. It is at the foundation of our respect for God and our treatment of all mankind; and if we are brethren in Christ, it is the basis for our special affections we should share for fellow Christians. What greater need is there among God's people? What one thing can be offered in its place? What concept better states what God and His people are all about? What God's people of the next century need is exactly what all people of all time need more than anything else – true love for God and one another.



# Teaching Our Youth in the Dating Years

By David V. Hurst

Most of us (given a few years) as parents have been asked, "how do you know when you are in love? Is there such a thing as "love at first sight"? Is it proper for two young people before they marry to care for one another and want to be with one another?" These are fair questions and ones that deserve good specific answers. The Song Of Solomon is an excellent tool to help our young during the dating years (as well as helping Husband and wife retain the romance in their relationship), if it is studied properly. In this article, we wish to encourage all along with our children's education on the spiritual and scholastic fronts, to provide a healthy dose of teaching the proper dating love. hat is, what does such love think? How does such love act? We also want to encourage you to study the Song of Songs.

Without going into detail, the Song of Songs addresses several facets of dating love. For example, one of the things that we can learn from the book is that a "longing for intimacy" is a normal facet of dating love. As I understand the book, in the Song we see a girl who thinks of her "friend" (boy) by day and dreams of him by night. They are evidently betrothed as they refer to one another as "spouse". Therefore, in this love poem, we find candid expressions of love between a man and woman who want to be with one another because they care for one another. There is absolutely nothing wrong with such feelings and thoughts. However, there is a danger; that is, we may allow such thoughts and feelings to become lust instead of love. In those instances, our thoughts will move to areas forbidden by God. Further, unlike the interpretations of a godless world, the Song of Solomon does not endorse wrong or lustful sexual activities.

It is gravely important to teach our young about man and woman. For example, teach them that when God made Adam, Adam saw that out of all nature there was not one creation suitable for him. Yet, he wanted someone for him; suitable to his own make-up. God made woman; help meet. God made men and women to compliment one another. Therefore, there is nothing wrong with seeking companionship in another; in one person in particular.

It is true, of course, that sin disturbed and distorted this wonderful relationship God created, and sin still does. Nevertheless, it was "not good" for the man to be alone. God fashioned a woman from the rib of man as a helper suitable for him. God brought her to the man, and the man recognized that she corresponded to him. God instructed them to cleave to one another, and they did so without inhibitions (**Gen.2:18-25**). God made us this way.

Like Adam, we still long for intimacy; that is, most of us desire another person of the opposite sex with whom we correspond, with whom we can be together, with whom we can share our thoughts, dreams and fears, and to whom we can cleave. This is what dating years should give us time to learn about another. It is much of what dating is all about.

We date in friendship as we properly look for that one person with whom we want to share and trust our most intimate feelings. Again, the Song of Solomon shows there is nothing wrong with longing for such a person, or specific person. This intimacy in courting is properly reflected in the Song of Songs. It teaches what godly romance should really be. "Courting romance" is not and never has been sexual infatuation. Rather, it is agape love and devotion.

This is not widely taught today. Whether through "soaps", "kids at school", parents, or even health "experts"; our young are being taught that romance is sexual exploration (or even exploitation). Unblushed, our society openly declares that romance is mostly sexual and that it is something acceptable for adolescents, so long as they "protect" themselves. Our young people are being taught that it is proper to find themselves at "inspiration points", "lover's lanes", or a dozen other secluded spots to engage in unchaste handling (lasciviousness). Seemingly, few know little about genuine romance. Further, they have less respect for truth (**cf. Heb. 13:4**). We need to protect our youth; teach them. Also, in our teaching, consider that due to sin (and our culture's innuendo jokes or vulgarity), we may often "feel" embarrassed to speak about subjects or teachings that our God does. If we don't, we end up with ignorant youth who don't know how to "think" and will often "act" out of harmony with God's teaching. Then, the real embarrassment will come; and worse, sin.

In dating years, most of us want our children to know what "wrongful lust, lascivious, and fornication" specifically are. However, as our young find themselves having thoughts and longing for the companionship of another, it is important that we also teach (and have taught) and study as to what is proper for one's heart to hold. It is significant that the Bible acknowledges this and puts into print teaching concerning these feelings that we may understand how we should think and act. God knows all about us. He made us. Study the Song of songs and then take it to teach your youth that they may live Christ filled lives.

