



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.  
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

Vol. 38, No. 27

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## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Worship 9:30 AM  
Bible Study 10:30 AM  
Worship 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM  
Bible Study 7:00 PM

### Bible Call

(618) 667-9603

[www.collinsvillecoc.org](http://www.collinsvillecoc.org)

# A LOVING ATTITUDE

**T**he love that Christians are to exhibit is not an emotion or a feeling. It is a way of thinking, an attitude. When Jesus said the second greatest command is to love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39), He did not mean that you must have an affinity toward him. There should, however, be a certain attitude toward him.

The Christian should develop a certain way of thinking toward others, especially those who are brothers and sisters in Christ. That way of thinking is the *agape* love of the New Testament.

The Christian, filled with love, should lead the way in respecting the value of his brother (Romans 12:10). After all, no matter how you feel about someone, he has value in the sight of God. He was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). God sent His Son to die for Him (Romans 5:8). He has a precious soul worth more than all the riches in the world (Matthew 16:26).

Consider, then, what Paul instructed regarding the loving attitude the Christian is to have toward others. A loving attitude is one that requires building each other up, seeking the other's good (Romans 15:1). It is an attitude that places value on others above your own value, looking after their interests as much as your own (Philippians 2:3-4). It is the attitude that the Christ had in leaving the glory of heaven, humbling Himself to become as a man, and then willingly giving His own life for man's behalf (Philippians 2:5-8). Paul pretty well summed it up when he wrote that Christians are to conduct their lives as Christ did, sacrificing themselves for others (Ephesians 5:1-2).

How does such an attitude manifest itself in the Christian? It is manifested by tolerance of the opinions of others. Truth is absolute, but opinions about matters of expediency vary. Christians must hold to truth but must be tolerant of the opinions of others.

It is manifested by acts of kindness toward others. The things you say and do to others can exhibit the attitude of love—or an attitude of bitterness. The Christian is to exhibit an attitude of love.

It is manifested by showing empathy toward others. It is rejoicing with your sister, or weeping with your brother (Romans 12:15). It is recognizing the circumstances of

another and responding to those circumstances as though you are sharing with them in those circumstances (Hebrews 13:3).

Another aspect of the love of the Christian is that of forbearance and forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-14). Forbearance has to do with overlooking the actions of another while giving time to work out the problem. Forgiveness, of course, has to do with releasing one of the consequences of his actions when he repents. The Christian is required to be both forbearing and forgiving.

Regardless of how often one offends, as often as he turns back with a penitent heart, Christian love requires forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-22; Luke 17:3-4). One should not cease to forgive under those circumstances. After all, how can the Christian, who has been forgiven of so much, fail to forgive others of so little (Matthew 18:32-35cf)?

Such love is manifested, then, by making every effort to heal wrongs. As mentioned above, the Christian should put the concern for the offender's soul above his own feelings (Philippians 2:3-4). He should go to the one who has sinned against him (Matthew 18:15). He should go in humility and concern (Hebrews 12:14-15), with the meekness and gentleness of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:1). He should go for the purpose of seeking peace, not for the purpose of seeking revenge. A rebuke may be necessary, but it should be done in humility and love. The purpose should be reconciliation, not placing blame and guilt.

Christian love should be manifested by the offender as well as the offended. The offender should exhibit love by making every effort to bring reconciliation. He should be willing to go with humility (Hebrews 12:14-15), with meekness and gentleness (2 Corinthians 10:1), placing his own interests below his concern for the one he has offended. Love is one of the building blocks of Christianity. If one is to walk with God, he must walk with an attitude of love.

TLM

# A DISEASE CALLED DISCOURAGEMENT

BY WADE WEBSTER

**T**here are many diseases that pose a threat to our spiritual health. One of the greatest threats has to be a disease called discouragement. In the Old Testament, we read of a time when this devastating disease reached epidemic proportions among God's people (Numbers 13-14; cf. 21:4; 32:9). In fact, it wiped out almost a whole generation of people. I believe that many congregations today are facing the same type of epidemic. Discouragement abounds. Like Joshua and Caleb, faithful and enthusiastic brethren are outnumbered 10 to 2. By studying the example of the Israelites, we can better understand how this disease works and how we can defeat it.

**First, we learn that, the disease goes back a long way.** Sometimes we think of discouragement as a modern malady. However, it is not (Ecclesiastes 1:9). The Israelites under consideration lived thousands of years ago (Numbers 13-14). We must understand that the temptations that come our way, including the temptation of discouragement, are common to man (1 Corinthians 10:13). They have been around for a long time. We can take courage from the fact that men have battled and beaten them before (Romans 15:4).

**Second, we learn that the disease spreads rapidly.** The evil report of the ten spies quickly spread throughout the whole congregation (Numbers 13:25-26). By nightfall, on the day of the evil report, the whole congregation was afflicted. The people spent the night wailing and weeping (Numbers 14:1) and the next morning complaining and contemplating returning to captivity (Numbers 14:2-4). The disbelief and discouragement often men caused a congregation to miss the Promised Land. Later, when it was on the verge of happening again, Moses quickly put a stop to it (Numbers 32:15). We must treat discouragement with the same urgency today.

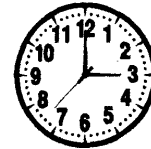
**Third, we learn that the disease affects the whole body.** Their eyes saw the giants in front of them instead of the God behind them (Numbers 13:28-29, 31-33; cf. Matthew 14:30). Their ears heard the evil report, but not the good report (Numbers 13:30-31). Their tongues spoke of the strength of the enemy, but not of the strength of God (Numbers 13:31; 14:6-9; cf. Romans 8:31; Philippians 4:13). Their feet were willing to go back to Egypt, but not ahead to Canaan (Numbers 14:3-4). Their minds forgot the many victories God had already given them (Numbers 14:11; cf. 21:1-3), and thought only of the defeat ahead. In like manner, discouragement affects the ability of individuals today to see, hear, speak, or remember the good. It causes men to go backwards, but not forwards.

**Fourth, we learn that the disease will result in death if it is not treated.** The context makes clear that God despises discouragement. Both the discouragers and the discouraged were not allowed to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:20-39; cf. 21:4-6; 32:1-23). The discouragers died immediately (Numbers 14:37) and the discouraged died in the wilderness (Numbers 14:28-30). In like manner today, discouragement will lead to death if it is not treated. We must understand what a serious sin it is to discourage the hearts of God's people (Matt. 18:6-7; Romans 14:13).

May we as elders, deacons, preachers, teachers, and members inoculate ourselves against the disease of discouragement. Furthermore, let us do all that we can to treat those who are already afflicted by it.

Via the Olathe, KS, bulletin  
February 3, 2008

## Mabery's Minutes



It is hard to believe that we have entered the second half of 2010. It took a while getting our evangelistic efforts organized and

operating for the year. So many have helped in getting materials prepared for distribution. You are to be commended. It now seems that all is working well. The teams are at work distributing the materials and knocking on doors. Hopefully, there is still enough year left to reach our goals for the year. Be sure to keep our efforts in your prayers.

If you would like to help with the door knocking but lack experience, let me know. I would be glad to work with you and help you until you feel comfortable taking someone else with you.

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