



Norwood Christian Grapevine

I am the vine; You are the branches... John 15:5

Pastor's Promptings...

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

Because of Valentine's Day, February is recognized by many as the month of love. According to Wikipedia, Valentine's Day is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for each other by sending Valentine's cards, presenting flowers, or offering confectionery.

So how do you show your love to others? Do you give cards, flowers, gifts, candy, go out to eat, or all of the above? Or do you have difficulty expressing your love? Giving cards seems to be the most popular way. The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately one billion valentines are sent each year worldwide, making the day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas.

A lot of men have difficulty in this area of expressing our feelings. Maybe it is because we are not as in touch with our emotions as women are, or maybe it is because we were never taught how. If my grandfather wasn't good at expressing love, then chances are that my father didn't learn how to express love either. And if my father wasn't good at it, chances are I won't be either. And if I don't know how to express love chances are I won't be teaching my sons how to either. It's a vicious cycle.



Maybe that's why the U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that of the approximately one billion valentine cards sent each year, women purchase approximately 85% of them.

Another problem we run into in this area is that people have different "love languages" that we speak. Gary Chapman identified five different love languages in his book aptly titled, "The Five Love Languages." They are: Quality Time, Words of Affirmation, Gifts, Acts of Service, and Physical Touch.

These "love languages" are the things that make us feel loved. The problem comes in when we use our love language to show love to someone else who speaks a different love language.

For example, if I feel loved when given verbal praise, like being told "I love you" or "Wow, I really like the way you fixed that leaky faucet" then I will have the tendency to show my love in the same way. 'Words of Affirmation' is my love language.

But if my wife feels loved when we spend quality time together and words of affirmation don't mean anything to her, she "speaks" a different "love language." I may think I am expressing love to her by telling her "I love you" (my love language) but if I spend very little quality time with her (her love language), she will feel unloved. It's like I'm trying to communicate in French to someone who speaks German. To communicate effectively we each

need to speak in the other's language.

This is true whether you are dealing with your spouse, your children, your parents or anyone you love. Expressing your love effectively to those you love requires understanding their love language and not your own.

What we are talking about is putting the needs (the love language) of others before our selves. Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." Selfishness is not love. Oh, it may be love of self, but it is not love of others. True love, godly love, has to do with giving of yourself to serve the needs of others. Many people in this highly self-centered world we live in struggle with being able to show true love to anyone other than themselves.

If you look at those five love languages again in the context of God's perfect love you will see that each one of them involves laying down your own life for the sake of those you love.

In the movie *Fireproof*, the father of Caleb, the main character, tells him that the reason he cannot show unconditional love to his wife is because he cannot give what he does not have. Until Caleb experiences God's unconditional love in his life he will be unable to truly love his wife the way God intended.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

This is so true and it makes so much sense. In the Bible we are told that “God is Love.” (1 John 4:8). If God is love then He is the source of true love. Until we experience His love in our life we cannot possibly give true love to anyone else. Is it any wonder so many marriages are failing in this self-centered society we live in today?

If you struggle with expressing love in your life maybe it is time you met the source of true love. Have you experienced God’s love in your life? “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). We would love to introduce you to God’s gift of love, given just for you, His Son, Jesus.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Come meet your love gift this Sunday. We meet at 10 a.m. for bible study and 11 a.m. for worship.

Serving Christ and His family,

Pastor Ken



IS SLAVERY OVER?

By Davis Watson

What a month it has been! Nationally, we saw the first African-American be sworn in as President of the United States of America and locally our church family saw two beautiful babies enter this world!

As our President has demonstrated and said in his speeches, in America no matter what your skin color, no matter who your parents were or how much money you have, you can grow up to be whatever you want to be through hard work and honesty.

This certainly was not the case a few short years ago. When I was born some 59 years ago, America was undergoing great change in race relations. There were civil right marches, sit-ins, fighting and rioting in our streets all throughout this nation. To dream that an African-American would be President was unheard of. All they wanted was to be treated and respected as a person created by God.

The way many White-Americans treated African-Americans as inferior persons stems from our slave history. A history no one should be proud of, yet a history everyone should know about to prevent it from ever happening again. How could slavery ever begin and be sanctioned by our government? It began for economic reasons. It was more economically feasible to raid African communities and haul these captured people in cargo ships as livestock than it was to pay them a fair wage to work in our fields, homes, and factories. How could our Government permit this when our founders believed that all men are created equal under God? Well that is pretty simple! Just redefine words! African-Americans were defined not as persons but as non-persons.

When a society with the support of its government can redefine words evil will result. Once you define a certain group of people as non-persons you can treat them as personal property. As owner of property you have the right to do whatever you want with it. You can sell it! You can whip it! You

can breed it! You can kill it! You can do anything you want to it as it serves your economic benefit! We can do these things because we live in a free country and owning property is our right!

We as a nation have come a long way, but we have an even further way to go. Do you realize that we still classify a certain group of people in this nation as non-persons and treat them as personal property? Do you realize for economic benefit we can sell these non-persons? You can mistreat them! You can even kill them! All to serve their “masters” and society’s economic benefit!

This practice must end!

During the inaugural festivities, we heard phrases such as “reach out to our neighbors” and “in His (God’s) hands He has the whole world”. These are true and we should be good neighbors as individuals and as a country. We should love our neighbors as ourselves and we need to realize that God is in control of this nation and this world; but, we must be willing to allow Him to be in control.

That is our problem! God created the perfect functioning world that works in harmony. You can easily see and appreciate God’s design and controls for this world. However, God created man in His image which includes a free will. With this freedom man can choose from right and wrong. Many times man chooses evil.

Evil is found in man’s redefining a person as a non-person. As a non-person, we can then legally end that person’s life through man’s interference with God’s beautifully designed birthing process. This is a process that allows the person to throw off constraints of the womb to begin the experience of living in a free country.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

Mr. President, I call upon you to reach out your hands to this people as a friend, a neighbor, as a real loving person and allow them to grow up as you have grown up with the freedoms given to them by God our Creator. Please begin to lead this country away from murdering the unborn child and allow these children to be born and grow up in loving homes in the greatest country God has made. Who knows? These “non-persons” may grow up to be President some day!

Abortion Rights and Civil Rights are divisive topics in our culture today. These topics are divisive because they deal with man’s mistreatment of his fellow man. This mistreatment is evil and sinful. We have all committed sins against our family, friends and foes. In God’s Law every sin will be punished by death, but God loves each one of us and provided His Son as our death/debt payment for our sin. As a result we all have the opportunity to live eternally with the Creator of this world.

To learn more about this opportunity to have eternal life, our church doors are open to all sinners. No perfect people are allowed in; except, if you are a new beautiful newborn baby. You will be greeted with the outstretched hand of fellowship as a neighbor, a friend and as a person.



NEW MEMBERS!

The Miller Family
Larry, Tammy
& Cheyenne
Welcome to the family!

SUNDAY SERVANTS

FEBRUARY 1st

Communion Preparation

Davis Watson

Greeters

Davis Watson & Thomas

Communion Servers

Davis & Mary Watson

Communion Mediation

Dean Boehler

Childcare

Heather Lawrence

Sound Booth

Rhonda Oliver

FEBRUARY 8th

Communion Preparation

Lawrences

Greeters

Dick & Kathy Nelson

Communion Servers

Dick & Kathy Nelson

Communion Mediation

Davis Watson

Childcare

Mary Watson

Sound Booth

Rhonda Oliver

FEBRUARY 15th

Communion Preparation

Ernie Calvillo

Greeters

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Communion Servers

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Communion Mediation

Ken Lawrence

Childcare

Kathy Nelson

Sound Booth

Rhonda Oliver

FEBRUARY 22nd

Communion Preparation

Howard & Betty Greager

Greeters

Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Servers

Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Mediation

Ernie Calvillo

Childcare

Tammy Miller

Sound Booth

Rhonda Oliver



FIREPROOF YOUR

MARRIAGE

6-Week Study

What a great turnout we had for the movie *Fireproof*. Everyone who watched this movie was truly blessed by it. The blessings continue as we begin a six-week marriage building study based on the movie. The study is called “Fireproof Your Marriage” and we encourage everyone in the community who would like to strengthen their marriage to attend.

The Fireproof Your Marriage study will be held every Wednesday night beginning February 4th. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck meal. The study will begin at 6:30 p.m. There is no cost to attend and childcare will be provided. Sign up by calling the church office at 327-0201. Don’t miss this opportunity to strengthen your marriage!



CONGRATULATIONS!

To Jay & Jacqueline Berg on the birth of their daughter:

Abigail Rose

January 11, 2009

6 lbs. 7 oz.

18” long

AND

To Shiloh & Lisa McGuffey on the birth of their son:

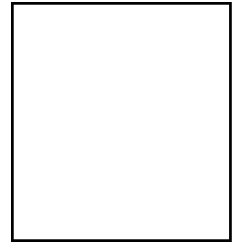
Zechariah Michael Cade

January 15, 2009

6 lbs. 10 oz.

21” long

I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES... JOHN 15:5



Corner of Lincoln & Summit
P.O. Box 931

Norwood, CO 81423

Phone: (970) 327-0201

Ken@NorwoodChristian.com

www.NorwoodChristian.com

10 AM ~ Bible Study

11 AM ~ Worship Service

 *JUST LIVE it*



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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Fireproof Your Marriage Class 6PM	5 Praise Team 7:30PM	6	7
8 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	9	10 <i>Davis Watson</i>	11 Fireproof Your Marriage Class 6PM <i>Kathy Row</i>	12 Praise Team 7:30PM	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 
15 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	16 <i>Presidents' Day</i>  <i>Bill Row</i>	17 <i>Jeremy Calvillo</i> <i>Lee & Evelyn Barrett-Annv.</i>	18 Fireproof Your Marriage Class 6PM	19 Praise Team 7:30PM	20	21
22 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	23	24	25 Fireproof Your Marriage Class 6PM	26 Praise Team 7:30PM	27 <i>Nick Calvillo</i>	28