

LOVE IS ...

C M V P A T I E N T N E V E R T N D I I
H K C Z C R Y Y D G H J F R Z V N E F P
E G N S D D J E D W K V U I Z I B D Q D
J F P N N Z R J W S Q W E M W Q V H P E
T U I K U E X B W L Q Q P S D H K A R G
G K O Q F R N Z H D V M N Y M O V T O L
S E E F S W D R A Q C L Y L R O X O V A
S X U A Y E M U Y Y D P S M B C S V O F
J S E U R S R T M P T E B O O W R S K O
B P F E U P S Z U Q V X C T T N E N E A
E L Z J Y U K T Z E T S P Y X V S I D A
F I G M O V V G I H L X O C O E K A E N
R M C L Z A Z L B U Q U J L P X P X Z B
W J A X N F E S D X H C Y O F K B B V O
C E N T T B E A R A T V H I C A X G F Q
J B O Q R R P U W D O P U Y W L S C M V
T N D I U I H K C Z C R Y Y G H J F R Z
V N E D T F P E G N S D J D W K V U I Z
I B N D H Q D J F P N Z J W S Q W E M W
Q E B E A R S V H E T U K U X B W L Q Q

1ST CORINTHIANS 13: 4-8

Answers to last weeks puzzle

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind and ^(L) is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails

P A U L W
E W E
T H O
M A T T H I A S
A J
N A N S A
D O M
M R E
S I E S
P E T E R
P H I L L I P
B A R T H O M A S
J O H N

In search of Truth and Right

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Why Do We Assemble?

You might think, based on that title, that this article has to do with trying to get people to faithfully attend and not forsake gathering together on Sundays and Wednesdays (Heb. 10:24-25). While that is an important topic, and sadly needs to be addressed because some just don't seem interested in being at every worship service, it will not be the main focus here. I'm more interested at the term WHY. In everything we do, we should have a reason for it. If not, we are not exercising the minds God has given us; we should be able to explain our actions at any given moment.

The real question I want to ask is this: do we assemble for our own sake, or for God's? To some that might seem silly, because God doesn't NEED us to assemble, just like he doesn't NEED

anything. He's God. Perhaps because of this way of thinking (or perhaps not, I'll not speculate on that), we often say that the worship services are for our benefit. We assemble, sing, pray, give of our means, partake in the Lord's supper, and study to energize ourselves, so that the time we spend in this sinful world is that much more bearable (Acts 15:32-35). We assemble to learn about the Lord and about His word. We come together to encourage one another and spend time in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ (1 John 1:1-3). All of this is true.

But is it the ONLY reason why we come together to worship and study God's word? It better not be! Maybe like me you've heard about someone saying, "I didn't get anything out of that." That's a sad thing to hear, because it

TIMES OF SERVICES		
SUNDAY	Bible Classes*	10:00 AM
	AM Worship	10:30 AM
	PM Worship	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	Bible Classes*	7:00 PM
	(* Bible Classes for All Ages)	

Those Serving This Week		
<u>Sunday AM</u>		
Class Prayer	C. Isinghood	
Announcements	D. Coen Jr	
Open Prayer	R. Dick	
Song Leader	E Roberts	
Scripture	Acts 7: 19-43	
Reader	Sean Michael	
Prayer	H. Marshall	
<u>Lord's Supper</u>		
Bread	D. Harless	
Cup	K. Prager	
Serve	W. Campbell	
Serve	T. Smith	
Closing Prayer	J. Lemal	
<u>Sunday PM</u>		
Announcements	D. Coen Jr	
Open Prayer	D. Harless	
Song Leader	E. Miller	
Scripture	Acts 7: 44-60	
Reader	D. Marton	
1st Prayer	M. Ferrell	
Communion	E. Roberts	
Closing Prayer	R. Dick	
<u>Wednesday</u>		
Announcements	D. Coen Jr	
Class Prayer	K. Prager	
Song Leader	E. Roberts	
Invitation	B. Legg	
Closing Prayer	W. Campbell	

Today's Sermons:
AM — *Three Kinds of Faith*
PM — *Taming The Tongue*

News N Notes

Shut-ins, Sick & In Need of Prayers:

Don Coen Sr
Grace Lancaster
The Roberts
Charolette Lancaster
Wayne Campbell

Anns Retreat

Josephine Clow
Mabel Fleming

Brightwood Center

Shirley Campbell

The Laurels

Virginia Malick

Valley Haven

Pauline Sellars

Weirton Geriatric

Kitty Morgan

At Home

Zeda Goddard
Pauline Midcap
Ann Rudolph
Trudell Tennant
Alfred and Mary Jane Myers

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means someone was present and yet went away not being edified or taught about our heavenly Father. It most likely means someone or multiple members were not doing their jobs, because when the church functions as it should, it is a place where people grow spiritually. However, consider this: when someone says, “I didn’t get anything out of that”, who is his or her focus on? Themselves! And whom should our focus be on when we gather together? That’s right, God!

We have to be asking, “is God getting something out of this?” And “is God pleased with our worship?” Yes, it’s true, He needs nothing from us. Everything we have comes from Him. But He WANTS us to worship Him “in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). So, when it comes to the question of “Why Do We Assemble?”, our answer needs to be twofold: for our sake, and for the Lord’s! We go to grow, to learn, and to be built up spiritually, and to make God happy! We want to obey Him and give Him the worship and devotion He so rightfully deserves!

Unwanted Pregnancy

I’m sure you’re familiar with what those two words mean when you hear them on the news or perhaps from someone you know in conversation. In that context, it means a woman has found herself in a situation she did not want to be in, did not plan for, and now is questioning what she wants to do next. Concerning what God says in that matter, it is very plain, as there are numerous passages that talk about life being “in the womb” (Isaiah 44:2).

In this article, though, I want to examine those words in a different context, one coming from Psalm 7:14: “Behold, the wicked man conceives evil and is pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies.” Another verse that speaks similarly is James 1:15: “Then lust when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.” Now we’re talking about an entirely different type of pregnancy that results in a very different kind of offspring. Something you should notice right away is that men are not exempt

from this. Lust conceiving evil and sin is something that happens to everyone, regardless of gender, social class, or even (to a point) age.

So, in short, what do these scriptures tell us? For one thing, they tell us where sin originates: from within ourselves. God tells us in His word that He cannot sin or even be near to sin, and that He does not tempt us (James 1:13), so it doesn’t come from Him. The bible also tells us that Satan, while evil himself, cannot circumvent our free will. So we can’t say “The devil made me do it!” We sin and violate God’s commandments when we allow evil thoughts to take root in our minds and draw us away from following the Lord. This being the case, some might say, “Well, there’s nothing we can do about it!” and resign to being sinful. But what does Romans 6:1-2 say? “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means!”

There are steps we can all take to help prevent lust from conceiving and producing sin in our lives. For one, we can study God’s word. It is in no uncertain terms the

guidebook for how we should live and how to avoid unrighteousness. The more time you spend reading the bible, the more you will understand what it says and take it to heart. Furthermore, in addition to studying, we can surround ourselves with other good influences. Our sin comes from our lusts, which comes from our thoughts. If we filter what we hear & see, we can minimize what could put ungodly thoughts into our hearts. This is no guarantee, but it will help. Finally, we can pray about it. We can go to the Lord with our concerns and ask Him for help so we can be pleasing in His sight.

Do NOT take lust or sin lightly! The end result is spiritual, eternal death! Are you prepared to deal with that consequence?

Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to the Lemal family in the passing of John Lemal’s stepmother

Don’t forget our gospel meeting
April 1st thru 6th with
Jerry Henderson.

Who have YOU invited ?

The meal list is on the board in the foyer for anyone wishing to have the Henderson in for a meal.