

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:
 (temporary during pandemic)

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 February 28, 2021

Where Love Is in the Home

by Bryan Gibson

Years ago, I remember hearing our brother in Christ, R.J. Stevens, along with some other men, singing a hymn entitled, "Where Love is in the Home." It was written by Joe Parks, and the first line helps us to see what the song is all about: "Where love is in the home there's happiness..." You see, where love is the home there will be a whole lot of other good things, too, and beginning with happiness this song details at least some of those good things.

The love of which this song speaks is not what the world typically defines as love; it's the love rooted in the very character of God. 1 John 4:7-8 says, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." When both husband and wife have been born of God and know God, they will know love in its highest form. So,

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when **this love** is in the home, what else should we expect to find?

Where love is in the home, there's **strength**, or **stability**, an element sadly missing in so many homes. Think about what is often said in the traditional vows: "For richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health..." These vows anticipate times of adversity, right? Ecclesiastes 7:14 speaks of a "day of prosperity" and a "day of adversity," and says that "God has appointed the one as well as the other." How does love, then, behave in times of adversity? "Love bears all things...endures all things...love never fails" (1 Cor. 13:7-8). Think of the strength, the stability you can have in the home when the two at the forefront are both saying this: "My love, it's here for the duration; come what may, it's not going anywhere."

Where love is in the home, there's **peace**. Understand, there can't be peace with one another unless there is first peace with God. One is designed by God to be a byproduct of the other. But in terms of peace with one another, think of that great command in 1 Peter 1:22, "love one another fervently with a pure heart." Pure love means it's free from impurities or contaminants, some of which would greatly disturb peace in the home. Think of the peace you can have when love is free from selfishness, and free from other fruits of selfishness, like envy, and bitterness, and vengefulness. Take those impurities out and here's what love look likes in the home: "love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own; is not provoked..." (1 Cor. 13:4-5). Where you have THAT love in the home, there is peace.

Where love is in the home, there's **joy**. We rejoice in God's great love for us, right, so why wouldn't we rejoice when we experience that same kind of love from one another? And that joy is not just in receiving it, but in giving it. One of God's greatest blessings to us is the capacity to love, to love fervently, deeply, to love as Christ loved us. Yes, to be on the receiving end is pretty awesome, but Jesus did say, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Where love is in the home, there's **truth**. Marriage ceremonies often quote the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:6: "What God has joined together, let not man separate." Jesus, of course, was speaking about husband and wife. But God has also joined together truth and love, and we best not try to separate them, because neither can be what it ought to be without the other (2 John 1:1-6). Love "does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6). What a beautiful thing indeed when you can see in a home an uncompromising stand for the truth.

Where love is in the home, it's a beautiful thing.

