

Today's Sermons

Morning: TBA



Evening: TBA

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	33
Sunday AM Worship	44
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wed. Bible Study	31
Offering	\$1616

Pointing Toward Pentecost

KINGDOM IN PROMISE Future	P E N T E C O S T	KINGDOM IN EXISTENCE Present
Zechariah 1:16 →		← Acts 2:29-31
Matthew 4:17 →		← Acts 14:22
Luke 10:9 →		← Acts 28:23
Matthew 16:18 →		← Romans 14:17
Luke 22:16 →		← 1 Corinthians 4:20
Mark 9:1 →		← 1 Corinthians 15:24-25
Matthew 6:10 →		← Colossians 1:13
Matthew 3:2 →		← Hebrews 12:28
Isaiah 2:2 →		← Revelation 1:9

Bures' Bible Charts



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm &
 Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

"LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE"

Roger D. Campbell

Hebrews 13:1 is made up of only four words: the four that serve as the title and theme of this article. Perhaps you have heard someone jokingly misquote the verse to read, "Let brotherly love *begin*." It is true that brotherly love must begin to exist before it can "continue," but the absence of such love is no joking matter.

Is it not a huge plus for the Lord's Cause when His people have a genuine brotherly love among them? Here are a few plusses or positive things that take place when brotherly love continues to abound among the members of God's church.

Brotherly love sends a message. Jesus said, "*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another*" (John 13:35).

Brotherly love hides a multitude of sins. "*And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins*" (1 Peter 4:8).

Brotherly love takes action, rather than just sit on the sideline and just talk or simply offer suggestions. "*But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth*" (1 John 3:17,18).

Brotherly love helps provide a healthy atmosphere because love "*is kind,*" "*envieth not,*" "*vaunteth not itself,*" and "*is not puffed up*" (1 Corinthians 13:4).

Continued Inside

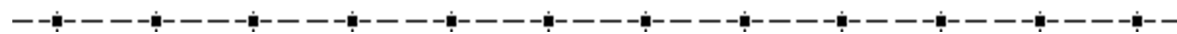
Brotherly love presents an attractive picture to small kids and teens that observe it, including our own children and grandchildren. How can brotherly love not make a good impression on them when it can honestly be said that "*the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth?*" (2 Thessalonians 1:3).

Brotherly love binds Christians together. Since we, as members of the church, have the same Father, we are family (Galatians 3:26,27). That means because we are "*kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love*" (Romans 12:10), we hurt when our spiritual family members hurt, we share in their joys, and we seek to comfort one another (Romans 12:15; 1 Thess. 4:18).

Brotherly love causes us to be determined to handle personal conflicts properly – in the way that the Lord instructs us. Jesus says for us to "*go and tell*" the brother that has offended us (Matthew 18:15-17).

Brotherly love reminds us of just how wonderful heaven will be. "*Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face . . .*" (1 Thessalonians 3:10). Just as the apostle Paul longed to see his brethren in this life, so we look forward to being reunited with the saints of God in heaven, where we will worship Him forever and never again be separated from our faithful brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Surely every disciple of Jesus enjoys being on the receiving end of brotherly love. But are you and I also on the giving side of such love? Do we really demonstrate genuine love toward our brethren in the Christ? "*Let brotherly love continue.*" It pays huge dividends.



Surprising Insights from the Unchurched & Proven Ways to Reach Them

by Thom S. Rainer

Mr. Rainer interviewed individuals who became professed Christians. These people were not those who had claimed a previous faith. There have been other studies which looked at why individuals claimed certain memberships, but this study was to find out why the 'unchurched' decided to claim membership.

Some of the findings are interesting.

90% said that the preaching was a factor for their choosing the church they were attending. 88% mentioned doctrines as a factor. 49% stated friendliness of members. Only 11% stated worship style/music was a factor. (It would seem that only those who are looking for a change of where to worship think this is important. Perhaps those who are so driven to be more 'contemporary' should take note of this fact.—Mark T. McWhorter)

91% stated that the beliefs of the church was important in their decision to come to that church. It was found that the unchurched were not turned off by the name of a church. 81% stated that the name of the church did not influence their decision. (Therefore, the current trend to change the title from church of Christ to community church makes no difference to those who do not attend worship presently. It is not true that the name will drive the unchurched away.--MTM)

53% stated that someone from the church shared with them how to become a Christian. 35% stated that no one from the church they were attending had done so as an initial reason for them to attend.

While the preacher was important in the choice of where to attend, the majority stated that it was not important for the preacher to be a dynamic and charismatic leader. They did like a good speaker but it was not the reason for the choice to attend.

The majority of the unchurched interviewed stated a desire to hear more complex and doctrinal sermons. They were looking for the truth and did not want to hear watered down, psycho-babble. The most stated factor related to preachers that was voiced by the unchurched in the study was preaching that teaches. The second most stated was preaching that applied to their life. Third was the authenticity of the preacher. Fourth was the conviction of the preacher. Fifth was personal contact by the preacher.

Friendliness or facilities was stated as a concern by 90%. While the facilities was not one of the most important items, an unclean and unkept facility did turn off interest. A common misperception by church members is that they are friendly, when in fact the unchurched noted that they were not.

68% stated that they attend Sunday school. 17% stated being part of other small groups. These stats are more than for those who transferred church membership.

Items mentioned as important for the previously unchurched to stay where they were included: doctrine clarified, high expectations by the church of them, an entry point class, small group studies such as Sunday school, clarity of purpose, and involvement in some work of the church.

83% of those previously unchurched who remained active for five years stated active attendance in Bible Class. Of those who only attended worship services, only 16% stayed active after five years.(In association with this, in 1999 only 19% of adult Americans attended Sunday school.)

The majority of the previously unchurched were looking for absolutes.

Preachers of the most unchurched reaching churches --
99% believe that salvation is only through Jesus Christ
80% believe that the Bible is totally true in all areas.

Hours per week in sermon preparation - 22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- June 7 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- June 14 – Preach & Eat
- June 19-20 - VBS
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell