

LOVE IS....

(AB)

Attributes of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

It always trusts. (1 Cor 13:7)

Some versions say love “believes all things”. Do you believe that? Is that what people mean when they talk about “unconditional love”? Are we not to question anything?

I profess to love the LORD, but I must also confess to having some doubt about this requirement to always trust. So, let’s put my love to the test. We have an expression that fits this situation. We say, “I will give you the benefit of the doubt.” Well, can I give God the benefit of the doubt? Of course, I can. Isn’t that what Abraham did when he went willingly to the mountain to sacrifice his son, Isaac? How about Daniel’s three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? When they were put to the test, they seemed to go even further than giving God the benefit of the doubt. Nebuchadnezzar was about to throw them in the fiery furnace, and they said,

“If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (Daniel 3:17, 18)

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, agonizing over his impending fate, He gave His Father the benefit of the doubt, and I have to believe that I can do it too.

The problem is that I must give God the benefit of the doubt when He asks me to give the benefit of doubt to others beside Himself. No fair! God gave His Son for me, so I know I can trust Him. I am confident that *“all things work to the good for those who love the Lord”* (Romans 8:29) I have no such confidence that all things work to the good for those who love you, however, and you could say the same about me. You and I are human and subject to sinful ways and lousy ideas and hurtful attitudes. If I am to love my brother in Christ, which is the context here, I will likely get hurt. The thing I need to remember is that when I love my brother in Christ, I am not giving *him* the benefit of the doubt; I am giving it to Jesus.

Paul was addressing people who were jealously vying for recognition because of the gifts God had given them. When they came to church, they brought their new toy gifts (speaking in tongues, prophecy, etc.,) but they left the lasting power of love outside.

Can’t you just hear some of the comments in the diner at Corinth after church ...

“Did you see that fool, standing up in the corner prophesying while I was still speaking in tongues? I couldn’t believe it.”

God might well say, *“I believe you are all fools, but I believe I can love you anyway”* We can believe in the love of God for ourselves and for our brethren. We can love like He does and that may mean that we are called to warn, or reprimand, others occasionally. If you truly understand love, and always act out of love, you will never have to doubt that you are doing right. Do you believe that? Can you put your trust so completely in love?



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

April 5, 2020

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today’s Sermon: *Prayer*

[\(Via Facebook Livestream\)](#)

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** streamed at 6:30.
- **Next Potluck:** TBD
- **Horseheads Ladies' Day:** postponed until further notice.
- **Next Regional Singing: May 31st (if possible) @ Horseheads**
- **Sojourners-** July 27th- August 6th
- **VBS-** August 8th



NEWS

- **Ted's** Eustachian tube surgery has been postponed due to the corona virus epidemic. He now must reapply to the VA for his surgery and wait all over again.
- **Paul will be preaching this morning on Facebook Live on his page. Paul Cowles**
- **We have heard from Jerry's friend Gail that he is enjoying his visit to Las Vegas with his oldest son, and that he was able to visit his youngest son in the nursing home where he lives before they closed the door to visitors due to Covid-19 concerns.**
- **The April Bible reading schedule will be posted on the Valley Cities Facebook page before the 1st.** People without computer access will receive copies in the mail.

PRAYERS

- **Pray for all those who are suffering with the Coronavirus, and for the families of those who have died.** Pray for protection for the elderly and others who are vulnerable.
- **Gail Westerhold**, Jerry's friend, is suffering with bad back pain which affects one of her legs. She has been using a cane or a walker. Please pray for pain and symptom relief.
- Pray for **Ted** as he will have to wait longer for the surgery on his Eustachian tubes to restore his hearing.
- Pray for **Chris Henson and Devon Wolcott** and their little son, **Jace**, who has brain trauma after suffering a seizure.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer.
- Please pray for **Mark Elsbree**, who needs a kidney donor. Pray for his daughter, Emily, who is a match for him and is willing to donate. Mark is near the top of the list now, so Emily may not need to have surgery.
- **Pray for Lori Kashorek**, who has lung cancer. Lori recently learned that she has two new brain tumors. We pray that they are operable as the last one was a few years ago. She has started radiation treatments, which should shrink those tumors. She is having a rough time because of the radiation and has asked for prayers to help her be strong.
- Pray for **Chris Beiber and sons, Nick and Nate**, as they adjust to life without Erin. Pray that we can stay in contact and encourage them to draw close to Jesus
- Prayers for the group effort **Bible reading** program! Help us all feel connected knowing we are all reading or listening to the same chapters in the Bible each day.
- Pray for **Jerry** as he's traveling and while he's staying with his son in Las Vegas. Pray for his time with his sons as he may never get a chance to see his youngest son again because his son has early onset Alzheimer's.
- We are thankful that we are able to gather in spirit to worship on the Lord's Day, and to attend class on Wednesday evening, but we pray that those who are not able to participate in this way will be kept

If you have any **PRAYERS** or **NEWS** that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.