

# The Most Difficult Command

By Joe Chesser

What do you think is the most difficult command God has given us? I'm sure you could think of many options. I'm guessing the rich young ruler in Matthew 19 thought selling all his property and giving it to the poor was the most difficult thing God expected. And that would be tough, wouldn't it? Others might think the command in Luke 9.23 to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus might be the most difficult thing to do. What about the command to make every effort to live at peace with all men (Hebrews 12.14)? All men? Really? That is challenging.

To decide which command God has given is the most difficult of all may not be possible, or even necessary. But this question came to my mind when I read 1 Corinthians 16.14: "Let all that you do be done in love." Now, that's a tall order!

This is not a difficult command because it is hard to understand. It's a pretty simple statement. Do everything in love. You'd need help to misunderstand this. No, what makes this so challenging is that it is so unnatural for us. We do not naturally love like God does, especially in everything we do. God's love is agape love, meaning that love is constantly looking for a way to do good to others regardless of how that love is received or returned. God is the epitome of "Let all that you do be done in love." And through His transforming power, that is what we can become, but it goes against our human nature. Our love is inconsistent. Our love is conditional. Our love is biased. Our love is selfish.

It's not natural for husbands and wives to treat each other with love all day every day. It's not natural for parents to be 100% loving to their children all the time. It's not natural for us to always be loving towards our neighbors or co-workers or even our friends. It's not natural for us to do everything in love when in traffic or at ball games or in politics. It's not natural for us to love the lost so much we will sacrifice our time, money and energy in taking the gospel to the whole world.

It's not natural. It's very difficult. But it is possible. I know it's possible because that's what God says He expects of us. That's why He taught us that the greatest command is to love Him with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and the second greatest command is to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12.30-31). That's why it was necessary for Jesus to become flesh and go to the cross ... so that we could witness love in action. That's why God gave His powerful, active word (Hebrews 4.12) that can transform our minds to become like Him (Romans 12.2).

Doing everything in love is a most difficult command. But it is possible!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

April 19, 2020

## WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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**Today's Sermon: *Prayer: Pray Without Ceasing.***

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

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)

[aicoc.org](http://aicoc.org) (Antioch Initiative)

Find us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)

**Scripture Reading:** TBA

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: April 22<sup>nd</sup>**, streamed at 6:30. The last two Wednesdays we had success with Zoom, so we will try a similar format this time. Check the **Valley Cities Church of Christ Facebook page** for information.
- **Next Potluck:** TBD
- **Horseheads Ladies' Day:** postponed until further notice.
- **Next Regional Singing: May 31<sup>st</sup> (if possible) @ Horseheads**
- **Sojourners-** July 27<sup>th</sup>- August 6<sup>th</sup>
- **VBS-** August 8<sup>th</sup>



### NEWS

- **Dwight Alleyne, who was a Vet student at Cornell when Arthur preached at Ithaca, lost his father, Randolph, to covid19 last week. Mr. Alleyne was 75.**
- Please remember those of our group who are not able to join us for worship online. Give them a call, drop them a card, etc. and help them to feel included.
- **The May Bible reading schedule will be posted on the Valley Cities Facebook page before the 1<sup>st</sup>.** People without computer access will receive copies in the mail.
- **Please let Sandy know if you would like some homemade cloth face masks to wear outside during our social distancing period. They are good for wearing to the grocery store or for pick up.**

## 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. Pray that these hard times will be brought to a fast end.
- **Thank God for all the doctors, nurses, medical staff and other caretakers who are putting their own lives on the line to care for and cure all the sick people.** Please keep them safe and protect them.
- **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 comfort from this disappointment.
- Pray for **Chris Henson and Devon Wolcott** and their little son, **Jace**.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz,** friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer.
- Please pray for **Mark Elsbree,** who needs a kidney donor. Mark is near the top of the list now, for which we are grateful.
- **Pray for Lori Kashorek,** who has lung cancer. Lori is dealing with two new brain tumors, for which she is undergoing radiation therapy. Lori and Doug's son Tim had planned to be married yesterday, but has had to postpone the ceremony.
- 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.
- **Pray for the Alleyne family of Deer Park, Long Island, as they they mourn the passing of Randolph, husband, father and grandfather.**
- 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.
- We are **thankful that we have the technology** that allows us 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 fed on God's word.

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