

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

February 4, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 2

Pastor's Word

The word for February is "LOVE".

The word is mostly used according to the first definition given in the dictionary: "an intense feeling of deep affection."

American author and radio talk show host Dr. Gary Chapman is noted for a series of books, The Five Love Languages, which deal with human relationships. He is also the senior associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He says this about love: "Love is not a feeling it is a choice" and "Love says, 'I choose to do that because I wanna do something for your benefit. I'm gonna give up what I was gonna do and I will do this for you.' That's love. It's giving away your life to another person."

As Christians, we are not to let the world define love for us; we are to let the Word of God define its meaning for us.

The Bible defines love for us in 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a (ESV) ***"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ... Love never ends."***

As believers, when we think of love we might first think of a verse like John 3:16 (NASB) ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life."*** Or 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT) ***"Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love."***

These verses declare what are important and true; however, to stop with these would be to fail to really understand love.

We need to understand what Jesus teaches about the love we are to understand but also to embrace and live out.

Here is what Jesus says to His followers about love:

³⁴ "I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35
NLT

"If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love." John 15:10 NLT

"This I command you, that you love one another." John 15:17 NLT

Jesus commands us to love one another. If we love Jesus we will obey what He commands us to do. We will love one another.

Love is the distinguishing characteristic of His followers. It is also evidence of the working of the Holy Spirit in our life.

(continued)

First Southern Baptist Church

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Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

John in his first epistle (1 John 4:7-23) explains how we (as believers) are to love each other. There is no excuse for being unwilling to love a fellow believer:

“²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.” 1 John 4:20-21 NLT

Why is understanding love important? Without understanding this we will not live in obedience nor will we fulfill our purpose for being which is to love God and others like Jesus.

“Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40 NLT

Without understanding love and loving one another we will not grow and the church will not grow! ***“By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.”*** John 13:35 NLT



“...And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.” 1 John 4: 21^b NLT

Pastor Jerry

February Verse of the Month

***He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.
He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.***

Psalm 23:2-3 NLT

A Pinned Note from the Pastor's Wife



Trusting a known God with an unknown future. This is what it means to walk by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7 AMP says, ***for we walk by faith, not by sight [living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God's promises]—***

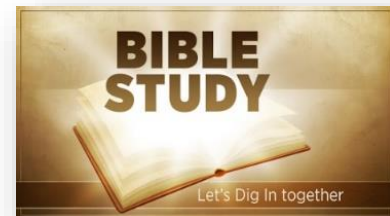
Proverbs 3:5-6 have been my life verses for several years now.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. NKJV

Those verses seem so timely right now with all of the uncertainty that we are facing, whether it be the pandemic, the future of our church, our kids and everything their families are dealing with, and the list goes on.

But God is so faithful. He wants us to place all of ourselves into His hands, and trust Him with it all. Instead of trying to figure it out, place it at the foot of the cross and entrust it into God's hands. He knows and He is known. And that's all that needs to be said!

Jessie



Opportunities available at FSBC to study God's Word together:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. both in-person and on FB

Fridays at 11:00 a.m. - Women's Bible study

JOIN US

For more information call the church office at 784-1641.

North American Mission Board

Prayer Requests – February 2022

Alejandro and Maribi Molero

Church Planter

Iglesia Biblica Sublime Gracia

Washington, DC

alejandromolero@ibsgdc.com



Pray there would be a growing passion for Christ in every member, a multiplying DNA in the church's leadership, godly servant leaders (present and future), heavenly support through our members and citywide opportunities for gospel influence.

Sam and Bibby John Thomas

Church Planter

Church Underground

Ancaster, ON Canada

samthomasjohn@live.com



Pray for us as we reach out to our community in Toronto, Ontario. Pray the church planting efforts in Hamilton and Kitchener, Ontario, would be fruitful. Pray also for the two church planter families who are interning at Church Underground.

Peter and Susan Bahng

Chaplain

United States Army

peterbahng@hotmail.com



Pray we can soon conduct our chapel services the way they were before the pandemic, including the permittance of congregational singing. Pray we will be creative and effective as we minister to this community.

Brandon and Anne Marie Langley

Church Planter

St. Rose Community Church

St. Rose, LA

stroseccpastor@gmail.com



Pray God would continue to raise up faithful elders, deacons and church members from the harvest in St. Rose. Pray God would help us steward opportunities to plant churches, both locally and globally, by His grace and for His glory.



Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

Building D

It's not too late to join. If you have questions, please see Janice at church on Sundays or Wednesdays. Or call the church office at 784-1641 to speak with the pastor.

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There is a **'prayer' opportunity** taking place on Sunday mornings following the worship service

AND



to join us!

Following the morning service, we gather briefly at the front for a season of prayer. We are praying for our church, and for God to reveal His vision for our church this year. We would love to have you join us.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Follow us on the church's Facebook page at **First Southern Baptist Church**:

- "Worship and Word" broadcast at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays by Pastor Jerry; upon viewing you are encouraged to **Share** and **Like** so that it will be available to your friends on FB



- Also, "Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Jerry" broadcast on FB at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays