

Sermon Notes



Messenger

Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us. Please stop by the visitors' center so we can have a record of your attendance and answer any question for you. Allow us the opportunity to know you better.

Love Isn't the Only Thing That Matters, But It Matters Most

I just finished preaching a month-long sermon series on love. This series has really impacted the way I think about things. I have not come away thinking that loving people is the only thing in the world that matters, but I have come away thinking that of all the things that matter, love matters most of all. In this brief post, I want to share with you why love matters most.

In Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus said the two greatest commandments were to:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

It is easy to see that "love" is the greatest command. But you might think—because Jesus says loving God is the greatest and loving neighbor is the second greatest—that our relationship with people should take a backseat to our relationship with God. But is that true? Should things like worship take precedence over relationships with people?

Here is what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:23-24):

"So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." Offering a gift at the altar was important, but repairing a broken relationship was more important. The relationship took precedence over worship. Jesus also taught that there were more important and less important parts of the Law. All of it should be kept, but things like "justice and mercy and faithfulness" were the "weightier matters" (Matthew 23:23).

Loving God first and loving our neighbor second doesn't mean our religious practices should trump our relationships with people. It means we love people because we love God. Our love for God informs and invigorates our love for our neighbor.

Faith and Service without Love. As it pertains to this subject, 1 Corinthians 13 is one of the most profound passages in the New Testament. Paul wrote: If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Do you see what he said? Your religious understanding, your religious knowledge, your faith, and your service are absolutely WORTHLESS if you don't have love. All of the things Paul listed are important, but love is the most important, because without love none of the rest of it even matters.

You're probably familiar with Paul's description of what love looks like. He wrote: 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 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

You don't get to be impatient, unkind, and rude to your neighbor and say you actually love them, because the Bible says that is not loving. Your faith, understanding, knowledge, and service are all incredibly important, but they are meaningless if you treat people poorly.

Some might be asking, "Why do we have to determine what is most important? Why do we have to rank things? Isn't it all equally important?" But as we've already seen, Jesus and His apostles say it is NOT all equally important. Every biblical issue is important, but love is the most important.

And it matters because if we don't love our brethren, our neighbors, and even our enemies, then it doesn't matter how right we are about doctrine or worship practices. And as a group, a church can believe right, worship right, teach right, and be organized right, but if they are not loving then they are not Christ's church (see 1 John 4:7-21).

Isn't it interesting how we get things backwards so often? We tend to care more about a brother's view on worship than we do his view on war. We care more about what he believes about God than about how he treats the poor, the immigrant, and the widow. We all prioritize things. The question is, do we have the same priorities as God?

Again, every biblical issue matters. What you believe about God matters. How you worship matters. But in the end, love matters most. We all need to meditate on that truth for awhile and then go out and show Christ's love to the world.

By Wes McAdams --- radicallychristian.com

Sermon Summaries

AM Sermon – “Just What We’ve Been Waiting For” – Acts 2:14-21

The Day of Pentecost following the death and resurrection of Jesus was significant for the Jewish Nation. It was the day when the promises of God to them were fulfilled. The joy that filled their hearts caused them to respond to the Gospel and become witnesses of Salvation.

PM Sermon – “Who Is Like the Beast?” – Revelation 13:1-10

False religion does not always appear false. It appears better and more superior to the old fashioned religion. With false religion, there is power and status. It is popular, familiar and comfortable. Who wouldn’t want that?

Schedule of Services

Pioneer Home Service	8:30 am
Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Ladies Class (at church building)	11:00 am
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Gordon Gower Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons

Don Dillahunt
Spencer Guest
Rick Pinney
Troy Trammell

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OFFICE HOURS: M-Th 8am to noon

ATTENDANCE

Bible Class 90
Worship Assembly 124

Pioneer Home 14

FINANCES

Weekly Budget \$4480
Weekly Contribution \$5337

Pioneer Home Schedule

Date	Lesson	Song Leader
Sept 15	Troy Trammell	Rick Pinney

September Greeters

Charlyene DeRonde

September Auditorium Cleanup

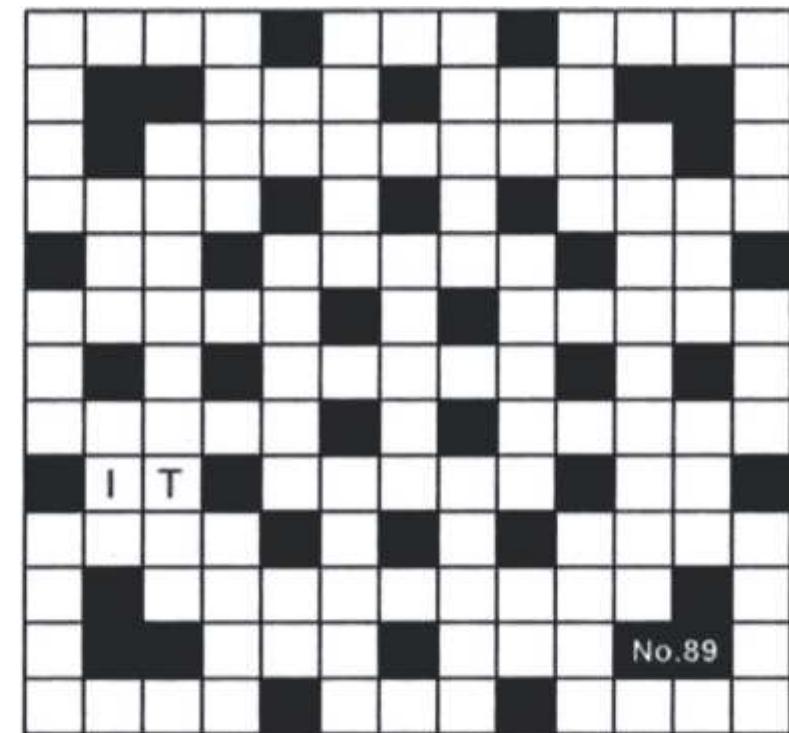
Dolores Buehler

September Communion Preparation

Deanna Hendrickson

2 LETTERS

AS
HO
IF
IN
FF
OR
TO
WE



3 LETTERS

AHA
AIR
ARE
AWE
INN
MAT
OIL
SAT
SKY
SOD
TEN
USE

4 LETTERS

ABLE
AMEN
ANNA
CREW
CUPS
DALE
FARE
GLAD
GULF
NINE

PINS

PLUS

SHO

SOUR

STAR

WEST

MEDIA

NOISE

REMIT

RITES

SWARM

TASTE

TENOR

WEEDS

5 LETTERS

ARMED
ASHES
ASSAY
DREAM
HEDGE
NINE

9 LETTERS

DETERMINE
LOATHSOME
PLENTIFUL
PROTESTED

1

**WHEN A MAN'S WAYS
please the Lord
HE MAKETH EVEN HIS ENEMIES
to be at peace with him**
PROVERBS 16:7

Things to Know

Elders, Deacons & Preacher Meeting

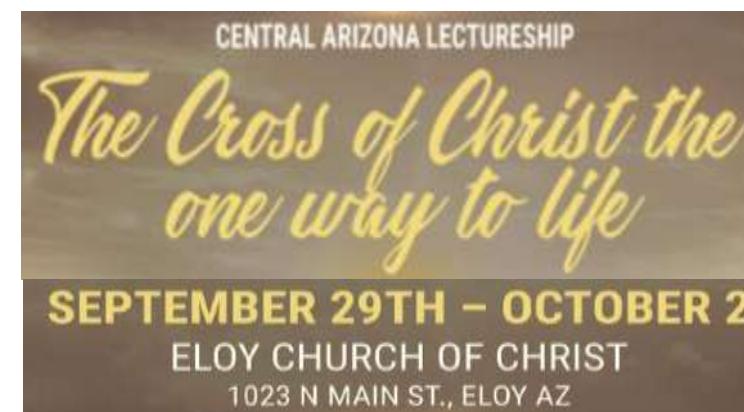
Sept 10th 7pm

Breakfast

Sept 18th 8am at Cracker Barrel

Men's Fall Retreat

Sept 20th & 21st at the Copper Basin Bible Camp. Flyers with all the details and registration instructions on the back table.



Flyers on back table with details



Yavapai Food Bank

Shopping list—these items are needed year round.

canned corn	soups and stews
canned green beans	dried pasta
canned peas	mac' n cheese
canned mixed veggies	canned spaghetti O's
pork & beans or similar	canned ravioli & meat
canned peaches	spaghetti & sauce
canned pears	rice
canned apricots	beans
canned pineapple	cold cereals
fruit cocktail	saltine or Graham crackers
boxed meals (tuna & hamburger helper type things)	
canned tuna	canned meat
peanut butter	fruit juices

Prayer Requests

Summer Mouland (Betty Hanna's granddaughter) severe reaction to black mold in her apartment.

Lucy Cottabarren was in hospital Monday thru Wednesday of last week with very high blood sugar problems.

Continual Prayers

Health Reasons/Treatment

~ **Scott Brukardt** for his continued treatment/healing.

~ **Bryson (Derda's grandson)** Heart functions to improve.

~ **Jennifer Evers (Katherine Stewart's granddaughter)** treatment for breast cancer soon.

~ **Darlene Oreleanna** cancer treatment.

~ **Janice Koenig's friend** that he be open and receptive to the truth of God's word

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell



Action: Glorify

READ: "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God" 1 Cor. 10:31

THINK: Freedom in Christ, 10:23-30, expresses itself by seeking the glory of God, especially so that many might be saved, 32-33. His glory is his person. Every act is measured by this rule, for it follows the example of Christ, 11:1. This way, pleasing others, 10.33, avoids running the risk of abandoning the truth. We glorify God using our gifts, 1 Pet 4:11; in body and spirit, 1 Cor. 6:20; in evangelization, 2 Thes. 3:1.

ACT: Use your liberty for others to come to give glory to God.

PRAY: Father, glorify your name through my life and message.

ASK: Does this act or work show the glory of God?
By J. Randal Matheny