



February 4, 2024

Pastor Note:

Some things are essential, crucial, and some are not. Your car will still drive with a broken window or windshield wipers that have a mind of their own. It will still get you from point A to point B without a heater or a working air conditioner, but if your motor seizes you are not going anywhere. The same is true of our bodies, we can manage without some parts, but if you're your heart stops – sayonara.

When it comes to living life to its fullest, the way God designed us and wants us to live, the most essential, crucial, and indispensable part is love. It is so essential that God commands it, and Jesus affirms its foremost importance, **“One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”**

Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these” Mark 12:28-31 (NLT2).

The Apostle Paul trying to correct numerous problems among the Christians in Corinth (Non-Christian thinking, personality cults, suing each other, doctrinal heresies, etc.) pinpoints the lack of, or complete absence of genuine Christlike love as their number one problem, and tells them that Christians without love are bankrupt and destitute, no matter how spiritual they claim to be. **“If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing”** 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NLT2). – Ouch!

God's word, the Bible, identifies sin as the core problem plaguing mankind (Romans 3:23), and sin invariably corrupts love, perverts love, twists love, kills love, and diminishes our capacity to love. Sin turns love into something manipulative, self-centered, selective, optional, and commercial. Sin misdirects our God-given ability to love from its two most important objects, God and others, to things that are of incomparable lesser and temporal value. Misplaced and lack of love devalues both God and people, it inflames our desires/lusts, and it inflates our pride, **“Do not love the**

world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever” 1 John 2:15-17 (ESV).

How much wrong went down in the world in the time you've been reading this pastors-note? Too much! May God help you and me to continually remember that, **“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of God's law”** Romans 13:10 (ESV, italics mine).

No one knows more about love than God, than Jesus Christ, **“God is love”** 1 John 4:8. So, if I want to learn how to love that is the very best starting point. In the school of God's love, two things are essential: 1. Embracing Jesus Christ, **“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins... Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God”** 1 John 4:10, 15 (ESV); 2. Living by God's commandments, **“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome”** 1 John 5:2-3 (ESV).

Whenever I point out the absolute essential of loving like Jesus, that loving God and loving people are the two highest values in God's kingdom, the “Yes but ...” raise their hands, even in my own mind. Too often that is the sinner in me afraid of going radical, trying to tone it down. Too often it is the stranglehold of my opinions and politics unwilling to surrender. Too often I retreat into reducing this love thing to a mental exercise. But, I am always glad when I let God's love captivate me, move my legs, extend my hands, disperse my belongings, and stretch my wired-for-love soul.

To God be all Glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



Lord Hear Our Prayers

PRAYER REQUEST

NAMB - Alayu & Yegile Mengiste Dubale (Church Planters of Ethiopian Gospel Believers Church), he King Family (Rimm's mother passed), Richard Mayes (Mabel Passed), Bill, Shirley & Family, Gabi (Knee Surgery). Greg Demauro (cancer), Loren (Addiction), Billy (Challenges), Henry (Back Pain), Judy Mahar's grandson Army Natl Guard serving in Jordan, And VBS 2024

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray, Farney, Peter, Jimmy, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing,
Noah Martin, John Michael Chavez,
Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker, Brian Sula,
Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,
Christopher Sula

CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and

Rachel Aratin - (209)206-5236

Prayer Request e-mail to: **Judy Mahar** ldpbcprayer@gmail.com

Church Board Members:

Hans Frei - Pastor . Richard Mayes - Head Deacon ,
Sue Kluding, Gabi Cox, Chuck Arndt,
Sue Hankemeier, Barb Deibler

Ministry Opportunity

Our children's department is seeking help for our Wednesday night class to assist the teacher. No teaching or prep is required - just show up to help as needed.

For more information, contact Susie Frei

(phone: 209-247-9234) or skfrei@gmail.com).

Where are you uniquely wired to serve??

- Multimedia
- Music
- Prayer Team
- Facility & Grounds
- Youth
- Kitchen
- Food
- Missions

Let us know. There's a place for you

January Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.
 - Women's Morning Bible Study— Wed. @ 10:00 AM
 - Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages - 7:00 P.M.
 - Food Ministry - 1st Wed. & 3rd Tues. @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 A.M.
- 40th Anniversary Celebration Meeting today after church**

Fellowship Time Snacks were provided
By - "Hans' Class)

Thank you

Next week Dan's class is up!!

A Bit of
Humor
Corner



Giving

January 28, 2024

Offering:
\$1,907.00

Food Basket:
\$50.00

Facilities:
\$5.00

Books & Material:
\$2.00

Attendance:
75

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday

Food Ministry:

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM
Grief Share - On Hiatus

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church

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LAKE DON PEDRO
BAPTIST CHURCH

Be Saved

Acts 4:12

Sunday Services 10:30am & 6:00pm

LDPbaptistchurch.com



February 5th - February 11th

DAY 1 - Ex. 1-2
(Ps. 5)

DAY 2 - Ex. 3-4
(Ps. 6)

DAY 3 - Ex. 5-6
(Ps. 7)

DAY 4 - Ex. 7-8
(Ps. 8)

DAY 5 - Ex. 9-10
(Ps. 9)

DAY 6 - (Ps. 10)
DAY 7 - (Ps. 11)

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.