



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.us](http://www.nacoc.us)

January 14, 2014

## Putting Our Love For God To The Test

Mike King



Much emphasis in life is given to the importance of love, which is proper. Paul believed that everything we do should be driven by love; otherwise it has no benefit (I Cor. 13:1-3). He informed a devious teacher that the greatest commandment in the law was to love God and that to love his neighbor as himself was next in line (Mt. 22:35-40).

The reasons for loving God are many and obvious. We are made in His image to glorify Him (Gen. 1:27; Ecc. 12:13). All good gifts come from Him (Jas. 1:17). He has loved us to the point of giving His Son (I Jn. 4:9-10) in addition to all other spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3). *“He that loves not knows not God, for God is love”* (I Jn. 4:8). Simply saying that one loves does not make it so! Can you pass the test on love?

First test question is, “Do I love my brother?” We are to love one another with the same fervency with which He loved us, which is also the measure of discipleship (Jn. 13:34-35). If we love God, we also love the children of God (I Jn. 5:1). Our response to others in life will come up in judgment (Mt. 25:40, 45). Love never behaves itself “unseemly” toward others (I Cor. 13:4-6).

Second question on the exam is, “Can I love my neighbor as myself?” God loved the world when it was unlovely at times (Jn. 3:16). We feed, dress, rest, and pamper our own bodies. Do we love others enough to extend similar courtesies of love? My real neighbor may be the one who is distraught by concerns of life. The real neighbor is the one who shows mercy and compassion (Lk. 10:30-37). We are to *“do good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of faith”* (Gal. 6:10).

Thirdly, “Can I accept God’s love for me?” We have all sinned (Rom. 3:23) and God has extended His love while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:6-8). We can come to God through Jesus (Jn. 14:6) for He by grace tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9). We imitate His love by extending it to others as He has given to us (Eph. 5:1, 2).

Lastly, “Am I willing to do the will of God?” Our love is shown by our willingness and success in keeping His commands (Jn. 14:15); it must be shown in deeds (I Jn. 3:18), not just verbiage (Mt. 7:21). Will we be “held back” because we were not able to pass the test of love?

## TENDERHEARTEDNESS

“The prudence of the best heads is often defeated by the tenderness of the best hearts” (Henry Fielding).

Among the virtues valued in our age, tenderheartedness is among the most undervalued. In the minds of many, toughness is seen as more of a weakness than a strength. The truth is, however, tenderness can solve a much wider range of problems than its opposite. In the history of our world, the people who have exerted the greatest real power - power to build, rather than destroy - have always been people with tender hearts.

The word “tenderheartedness” can mean two different things, both of which are valuable. In modern usage, tenderheartedness often means COMPASSION. It denotes that one is easily moved by another’s distress. In this sense, the person with a tender heart is one who can be touched by someone else’s suffering and is willing to respond with mercy. Surely, this is a prime virtue to include in our character.

But tenderheartedness can mean something else. It can mean that a person has a tender CONSCIENCE. Unlike the individual who has allowed his conscience to become hard and insensitive, the tenderhearted person has a conscience that still works. When it is pointed out that he has erred, he is “touched” by that fact. His heart is still tender enough to feel genuine, healthy remorse for his failings. And like other kinds of tenderness, this tenderness of conscience is a potent force, a strength with impressive capabilities. It allows the person who possesses it to do something that the tough are rarely able to do: take steps of honest growth and personal improvement.

There are few gifts that we can give to others that are more beneficial than tenderheartedness. Whether it is tenderness of compassion or tenderness of conscience, this is a quality that can do powerful, life-changing good. It can move mountains - mountains at which the “strong” can only curse. And one of the most remarkable things about it is that, while life lasts, it is never out of our reach. Even the hardest heart can become more tender if it’s willing to make that choice.

“When death, the great reconciler, has come, it is never our tenderness that we regret, but our severity” (George Eliot).

~ Gary Henry ~ WordPoints.com 01/12

## YOUTH NEWS

- The Senior Bible Bowl will be held here at New Albany on January 19th at 2:00pm. Please come out and support our young people. 
- The next Junior Bible Bowl will be held January 25th, at the East Main Church of Christ.
- This month’s Youth Devo will be held Sunday night Jan 19th, instead of the 26th, following evening services. *Greg and Kim Clayton* will be hosting. Girls are asked to bring desserts and boys condiments to go with hot dogs and chili. Please let *Greg* or *Kim* know by Wed. night Jan. 15th, if you plan to attend.

## WHY IS IT?

- That those who want the church **to do the most**, usually give the **least**?
- That those who have the greatest desire to rule are usually the least qualified to rule?
- That so many **brag** on the preaching, but **lag** on the practicing?
- That folks will talk about another’s faults in an effort to divert attention from their own?
- That those who **know** the word do not **sow** the word?
- That many who are **lost** never count the **cost**?

## AREA EVENTS

- A Gospel Meeting is scheduled for January 17-19 at the Verona Church of Christ. Michael Bates, minister for the Batesville Church of Christ, will be the guest speaker.



### PRAYER LIST

**Grace Anderson**, mother of *Kaye Parks*, was admitted to the local hospital, room 343 Sunday night, with blood sugar problems.

**Jennie Bell**, will have shoulder replacement surgery Jan. 14th at the local hospital.

#### Continual Prayer list:

**Tony Cross, Grace Lyon, Gordon Gentry, Rivers Robertson, Hudson Grisham, Pat Reed, Nancy Petrowski, Denise Littlejohn, Justin Forsyth, Steve Stokes, Kelly Fryar, Donna & Roy Crow, Hugh Collins, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, Terry Young**

#### Shut-Ins:

**Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Teresa Clark**

#### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

**Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Maxine Carlisle, Jennie Frohn**

#### Military List:

**David & Barry Wilhite, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud**



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January 18. . . . . Jean Drummond  
January 21. . . . . Bobby White  
January 21. . . . . Audrey Anna Young  
January 23. . . . . Shane Crotts  
January 25. . . . . Melissa Reed



### REJOICE

We are happy to announce that *Jenna Carpenter* was baptized into Christ Saturday afternoon January 10th, by her grandfather *Bobby Marques*. Jenna is the daughter of *Brian and Shelby Carpenter*. Please encourage *Jenna* as she begins her Christian walk.

### THANK YOU

Thank you doesn't seem enough. Your kind words, thoughts, food, visits, and prayers have certainly comforted us during this difficult time. It means so much to us that God has blessed us with such a loving church family. We simply can't thank you all enough.

The Parks,  
Alvin, Kaye, Anderson & Jodi

### ALL DAY SERVICE

The elders have decided to have an All Day Service Sunday, Jan. 26th. This will be in place of the 5th Sunday in March, so as not to have a conflict with our Gospel Meeting which begins that Sunday. We will have a meal following our morning services, with evening services beginning at 1:15, lead by our deacons. The Young Adult Class will be in charge of the fellowship building. Everyone is encouraged to be present and bring a guest.

### 3rd SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP CHANGE

Our 3rd Sunday night fellowship has been canceled for this month. The Youth Devo will meet this Sunday night January 19th, instead of the 26th. *Greg* and *Kim Clayton* will be hosting. The girls are asked to bring desserts and the boys are asked to bring items to go with chili and hot dogs. Please let *Greg* or *Kim* know if you plan to attend.

### SYMPATHY



We express our sympathy to the following families who lost family members this past week.

- To *David Peeler* & family in the death of his grandmother *Vadeen Whitehead*, of Falkner, MS.
- To *Kaye Parks* & family in the death of her step-father *L.C. Anderson* of Pascagoula, MS
- To *April Pounders, Kim Clayton* and family in the death of their 22 yr. old cousin of Fulton, MS.
- To *Brad Sloan* and family in the death of his grandmother, *Vera Butler* of Booneville, MS
- To *Teresa Semore* in the death of her mother *Ms Dickerson* of Amory, MS.

### Wise Thoughts

Love is the sweet sunshine that warms into life, for only in darkness grows hatred and strife.



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30  
 Morning Worship.....10:30  
 Evening Worship.....6:00  
 Wednesday Bible Study....7:00

### MINISTER

Mike King..... 507-0625  
 Home ..... 534-6872  
 Office..... 534-4649

### ELDERS

Richard Jennings .....534-6671  
 Troy Robertson .....534-3491

### DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762  
 Roger Clayton..... 538-8195  
 Brad Pounders.....316-7931  
 Harold Russell ..... 507-1180  
 Randy Wall ..... 316-9255  
 Lonnie Weaver..... 801-8448

### TO SERVE

Scripture.....Ruston Adams  
 A.M. Prayer.....Lonnie Weaver  
 Closing Prayer.....Terry Young  
 P.M. Prayer.....Bill Botts  
 Closing.....David Clayton  
 Wed.1/15.....T. Stubblefield  
 Wed.1/15.....Gary Turner  
 Usher & Lock.....Greg Clayton  
 Greeter.....G & K. Clayton

### OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....112  
 Sunday A.M.....139  
 Sunday P.M.....103  
 Wednesday.....113  
 Contribution.....\$3,116.54  
 Budget.....\$3,989.47



### PANTRY ITEM

Pasta

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### CHILDREN

Maybe you've heard the story about the school teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his snow boots. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots just didn't want to go on. Finally, after much struggling, she got both boots on only to hear the little boy say, "They're on the wrong feet."



She looked, and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on but she managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than scream, "why didn't you say so?" Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet.

No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear'em." Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots." (Biblical Parenting)

(Psalm 127:3,5) *"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord...Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them..."*

~ Steve Higginbotham