



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

June 16, 2020

In All Things Charity

By: Jonathon McAnulty



A Latin quote: “unitatem in necessariis, in non necessariis libertatem, in omnibus caritatem.” Attributed to Marco Antonio de Dominis in his work *De Republica Ecclesiastica*, published in 1617, it is translated into English as “Unity in necessary things, in non-necessary – liberty, in all things charity.”

The idea, and variations of the quote, have worked their way around theological circles for four-hundred years. Thomas Campbell, in his Declaration and Address before the Christian Association of Washington in 1809, worded it thusly: “In matters of faith, unity; in matters of opinion liberty; in all things, charity.”

Though the quote can be traced back to 1617, the ideas therein are all quite biblical in nature.

In those necessary matters of faith: unity.

We read in the Bible, this plea, “*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. (1 Corinthians 1:10; ESV)*” And then again, we are to be “*eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:3-6; ESV)*”

In things that are merely matters of opinion: liberty.

Concerning this, God tells us, “*As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. (Romans 14:1; ESV)*” The same chapter goes on to explain that we should be convinced of our own opinions, but not try to force them on others. In other words, we have liberty concerning those things God has not commanded.

The main difficulty is in determining what are truly matters of opinion, and what are matters of faith. In the end though, if God has spoken on it, giving us guidance, a thing ceases to be opinion and becomes a part of the faith, because we believe the word of God is true (cf. Romans 10:17). However, even in such disputes, or especially in such disputes, it is necessary to remember the last admonition...

In all things: charity and love.

Our world has an absence of charity in regards to both matters of opinion and matters of truth. We see this lack of charity in our manifold political debates, with each side assuming the worst of the other. We see this in personal interactions as people scream and yell at one another, cursing and swearing. And, sadly, we even see this in religious discussions, where, much like politics, we are quick to assume the worst of those who disagree with us, and much like both political and personal arguments, we are quick to resort to name calling and the like.

The Bible tells us: “*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth. (2 Timothy 2:24-25; ESV)*” Likewise, “*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (James 3:17-18; ESV)*” And, lest we forget, let us remind ourselves of the command of Christ, “*Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. (Matthew 5:44; ESV)*”

There is a place in religion for absolutes and for standing on those absolutes; and the Christian faith definitely has some absolutes that we should hold fast (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:2, Ephesians 4:4-6, 2 Timothy 1:13). Likewise, there are matters of opinion in this world, and so long as these things don't touch on the actual practice of our faith, we should be willing to let people do their own things (cf. Romans 14). But no matter the circumstances, no matter the disagreement, no matter what someone else has said or done, and no matter what we are afraid they are going to do, we must remember that it is in love and charity towards the other that we are most like Christ (cf. John 13:34-35). In all things, at all times, charity is always appropriate.

Be Kind

My oldest son, Garrett, is fifteen, and soon to be sixteen. As such, he is learning to drive. This process began years ago as he manned tractors and trucks around our small farm. When he turned fifteen and legally could, it made its way to the roads of Tennessee which had few drivers in our rural setting. As is generally the case with small-town America, those drivers were typically friendly and laidback. Things dramatically changed when we moved to Denver. As I have coached Garrett in navigating six very full lanes of traffic in the fast-paced hustle and bustle of a big city, I find myself amazed at the type of driver he is. He is KIND. He lets people in and over who are trying to merge. He slows down to let people pass him. He is KIND! He shows more KINDNESS than most any other driver I see on Wadsworth (including me!). Just the other day as this was dawning on me, I thought to myself how unusual it must seem to other drivers.

Please do not misunderstand. None of my sons, including Garrett, are perfect. No preacher's child is because no one's child is. Still, in this particular area at least, he is an excellent example to other drivers and has even taught his driving teacher daddy a thing or two. It is a lesson we need to learn as preachers, as teachers, and as Christians. We need to be more KIND.

Galatians 5:22 tells us that one aspect of the Fruit of the Spirit is KINDNESS. He goes on to say that because we belong to Christ, we should no longer be so full of ourselves that we are picking fights with others. We should be KIND! The woman of Proverbs 31 is said to have the teaching of KINDNESS on her tongue (verse 26). Earlier in that book of wisdom, we are told not to let KINDNESS depart from us (3:3). It is coupled with truth in that verse. It is not true to say we must choose to either be kind OR stand for truth. We must have both truth and KINDNESS (Ephesians 4:15). In fact, KINDNESS is an attribute that is required of children of God (Colossians 3:12).

Once, at a dinner party famed American novelist William Faulkner was attending, a polite man pulled a dining chair out for one of the women, who, busy talking with other guests, was unaware that he had done so. She fell to the floor, surprised and chagrined. Reportedly, Faulkner sat down on the floor with her. The gesture – noble, tender, humane – was much in his character. Faulkner could not abide harm or diminishment. He preferred to get on the floor with the fallen.

Just like Faulkner, what an example we can be for Christ when we are willing to get on the floor with others who have fallen. Just like my teenage driver, what a difference we can make when we stand out in an unkind world by being KIND. It is not only a good idea, but it is also what God expects of us. *“And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love KINDNESS, And to walk humbly with your God?”* (Micah 6:8).

By : Corey Sawyers

We Need Men

YES, we need men – good men – men of integrity – men who can be trusted – men who stand true to the teaching of the Bible – men who will put Christ and His church foremost in their lives – men who are good family men. The world needs them – this country needs them – the church needs them – MT CARMEL (*New Albany*) needs them. David Riley wrote the following for the Mars Hill Bulletin:

We Need Men...

Who cannot be bought
Whose word is their bond
Who put character above wealth
Who are larger than their vocations
Who do not hesitate to take chances
Who will not lose their identity in a crowd
Who will be as honest in small things as in great things
Who will make no compromise with wrong
Whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish desires
Who will not say they do a thing “because everybody else does it”
Who are true to their friends through good report and evil report, in adversity, as well as prosperity
Who do not believe that shrewdness and cunning are the best qualities for winning success
Who are not ashamed to stand for the truth, when it is unpopular
Who can say, “NO” with emphasis, although the rest of the crowd is saying, “YES”

YES, we need men! We need you NOW! It is time to go to work, so get onboard with the Lord and with His church and go to work.

~ copied



PRAYER LIST



Kathy Clayton, fell this past week hitting her head, neck and shoulder. Her collar bone is broken. She also will have heart tests this week.

Helen DePriest is recovering from cataract surgery.

Eleta Grimmett, is continuing to improve. Her kidneys are not functioning 100% but are much better.

J.L. Eaton is dealing with back and hip problems.

Expectant Mothers:

Kelsey Petrowski: boy, Aug.

Erica Crotts: boy, Oct.



Continue to Remember:

Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmett, Phillip Haynes, Andrea Hill, Janie Huggins, Bill & Grace Lyon, Ronnie Miller, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Josie Tidwell, Charles Ulmer, Angela Victory, Nicki Weaver, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski,

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Price Senter, J.D. Stroud

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- June 16. Betty Boren
June 16. Lucille Gibson
June 18. Madison Griggs
June 22. Luke Jennings
June 23. Andrea Hill
June 23. David Wilhite
June 24. Janice Cobb
June 24. Erica Crotts

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- June 16. Richard & Kathy Jennings
June 17. Kevin & Stephanie Simmons
June 20. Dean & Viva Dillard
June 25. Billy Joe & Benita Garner



THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you each and everyone for your prayers, phone calls, your texts, but most of all for the beautiful cards. Yu brightened our days. We had to put J.D. in Magnolia Place. I could no longer care for him by myself. Hope to see you all soon. I've missed my church family and my personal family so much.

In Christian Love,
Sue Stroud

FROM THE ELDERS

The elders appreciate your comments about our preacher candidates. Please let them know your opinion of each. Thanks to all who already have.
The Elders

Walk With Me Daddy

Walk alongside me, Daddy
And hold my little hand
I have so many things to learn
That I don't yet understand

Teach me things to keep me safe
From dangers every day.
Show me how to do my best
At home, at school, at play

Every child needs a gentle hand
To guide them as they grow.
So walk along side me, Daddy
We have a long way to go.

By: Helen Brush

I've Learned...

Manners go a long way and they don't cost a dime.



2020 GRADUATE RECOGNITION

We will recognize our 2020 graduates Sun. June 21st, at our morning service. Our two high school seniors, David Clayton and Patience Golden will each have a table set up in the foyer to display their accomplishments and memories.



Please take a moment to congratulate them and notice their many accomplishments. This has been a difficult year for all high school seniors who have had so many things canceled and changed, so let us be sure to show them how much we love and appreciate them.

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Volume 24

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby....Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Tim Dye.....316-2527
 Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....316-6420
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Mark Jennings...731-609-3309
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Clayton Hill
 A.M. Prayer.....Paul Ormon
 Closing.....Mason Simmons
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed.....
 Wed.....
 Lock.....Shane Crotts
 UsherShane Crotts
 Security TBA

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)

Church of Christ
 511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
 New Albany, Mississippi 38652
 (662)534-4649

Periodical
 Postage Paid
 New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
 (Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box
 148, New Albany, MS 38652

Mighty Fine Lesson

A visiting preacher attended a men's breakfast in farm country. The group has asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls to say grace for the morning meal.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began. The preacher opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wondered where this was headed. The farmer then loudly proclaimed, "Lord, you know how I hate the taste of lard." Now, the preacher was sure 'nuff concerned, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for the taste of raw white flour." Glancing around again, the preacher saw that he wasn't the only one who was uncomfortable.



Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix then all together and bake them, I sure do love warm, fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than hot biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all of us when it comes to complicated situations such as we're facing today. Just stay strong, because our Lord just may be mixing several things we really don't care for, but something even better may come after he is done with it. Amen.
 ~ author unknown; via Ken Joines' Newsletter