

UPCOMING

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Prayer List

Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments.

- Renee Cumberland (cancer)
- Ora Barrett
- Connie Montgomery
- Emily Linton
- Andy Duncan (Liver transplant)
- Wayne Rigdon
- Lynn Nichols
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Communion Preparation

2026 preparation list is in foyer

July -

August -

Birthday / Anniversary

Tristan Rowell - 6th

Chuck Rowell - 11th

John Reeves - 16th

Calista Murphy - 30th

Gene & Holly Hurst - 25th

Ryan & Kylie Joiner - 26th

Men to Serve

Announcements - Larry Montgomery

Scripture Reading - Galatians 5:22 - 23

Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell

Head of Lord's Table - Shay Cooper

Assist on Lord's Table - James Johnson

Scripture Reading - John 19:19 - 30

Closing Prayer - Rick Carlberg

In him we have *redemption*
through his blood, the *forgiveness*
of sins, in *accordance with the*
riches of *God's grace.*

■ EPHESIANS 1:7

07 / 12 / 2026

WELCOME

We are a body of believers whose soul intention is to glorify and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of His church. Our desire is to reflect that of our God--that all be saved.

Anyone who is willing to humble himself before the mighty hand of God can be saved.

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Bible Study //
9:30 am
Worship Service //
10:30 am

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study //
7:00 pm

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

4217 Highway 39 N // Meridian, MS 39301

PHONE: (601)483-2726 WEB: www.nscocmeridian.com

Join us via live stream for our worship service!

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SERMON NOTES

because they do not want to do what it really takes to love someone else. Jesus' words on the subject ring loud and true, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6). I'm convinced that the reason Jesus said this was because if we can love our enemies, then we can certainly love our spouse. There is, therefore, no excuse for divorce, save for the one Jesus himself gave (Matthew 19:9).

Not only, however, does society define love as mere emotion in the marriage relationship, but in many of our relationships today. One is said not to love his friend if he opposes something that his friend desires to have in his life and bad feelings result from that opposition. One is said not to be loving his fellow man if one points out wrong behavior and incorrect attitudes in another person, due to the negative feelings that one has as a result from having to face one's own problems/mistakes. Even among those who claim to be Christians, if one does not project a positive, sappy, syrupy emotionalism toward his fellow Christian, then one is immediately labeled as being "unloving."

This "unloving" label often comes as a result of someone pointing out that another is either not living right, or is incorrect in some point of doctrine or religious practice. However, in such a situation, the "unloving" label begs the question,

"Should one love his fellow man above God?" The immediate answer to that is, of course, no (Mark 12:30). However, is this not, in essence, what one is saying in response to someone who is seeking to resolve incorrect beliefs or behavior? "If you make me feel bad about my spiritual condition, or practices, then you just don't love me." What about loving God first? The very fact that God demands that we love Him above all others means that there are going to be some whose feelings that we have to hurt in order to please God. It doesn't mean that we intentionally want to hurt other people's feelings, or that we even like to hurt other people's feelings. It is merely a matter of doing what is right in the eyes of God.

One cannot sustain love as mere emotion and love God in the way that God demands that we love Him. Sooner or later, God's will is going to come into conflict with those emotions. If we take, as our foundation, love to be mere emotion, we will end up compromising God's will in the long run. However, if we understand that true love involves more than mere emotion, then when the emotions come, whether good or bad, we will stay with our commitment to God and His will. It is upon these grounds that Jesus can demand of us, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15, see also 1 John 5:3).

Toward Better Communication

By Sewell Hall

"This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger, for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God." (James 1:19-20)

Can you imagine better advice for getting along with others? How often we hear it said that the problem in a family, a plant, an office, a school, or even a church is a breakdown of communication. Obedience to this verse would change all of that.

"Be quick to hear." Listen! Try to understand where the one who is talking "is coming from" and what he or she really means. See if you can repeat what was said so accurately that the one who said it will agree that you have stated the position accurately.

Now, make sure a reply is needed. We do not have to correct every mistake we hear. Some are not serious enough to require attention. Others, though serious, may have to wait for a more suitable time to be corrected.

Even if a reply is needed, take your time. "Be slow to speak." Think of what you are saying. Think how it will sound to the one hearing it and how it will sound if it is repeated to someone else. Ask yourself if what you are about to say will do good or do harm. Ask God to help you to say only what needs to be said. Nehemiah was asked a question by the king and managed a prayer before he answered (Nehemiah 2:4-5). Remember that once you have spoken, you cannot recall your words.

Above all, "be slow to anger." Anger almost always breaks down communication; shouting matches seldom end in a better understanding of each other. And, besides jeopardizing human relationships, they endanger our relation with God. We may fancy that our anger is "righteous indignation," but the Holy Spirit says: "The anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God."

Are you thinking, "That's not much of a way to win an argument"? RIGHT! But it is a pretty good way to stop one. How would you like to by to argue with someone who is "quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger"?

Love and Loving God

By Kevin Cauley

When my wife and I got married close to thirteen years ago and my parents asked us why we wanted to get married, we replied, "because we love each other." I will never forget the words that my dad told me that day. He said that we had a love, but that we really did not know what it meant to love each other, but that as the years went by, we would learn more and more of what it means to truly love one another. I confess that I did not completely understand what he meant at the time. However, thirteen years later, I think I am beginning to understand. Loving another person doesn't just mean that you have "positive feelings" toward them all the time. It means that whatever feelings you do have for another person, whether those feelings are positive or negative, you do not forsake that other person; you remain steadfast, loyal, and true regardless of what comes your way, and always seek the best for that person (as God defines "best") regardless of their circumstances.

This past week, I received e-mail from our web site in which the questioner stated, "I am not in love with my husband." It was sad for me to read that statement. Part of the reason that such a statement is made is that people in our society today simply do not understand what the word "love" truly means. And so, when they stop having the "feelings" of love, then they assume that they no longer "love" someone. Such does not have to be the case. I don't have tremendously wonderful feelings for my enemies, but I must love them nonetheless (Matthew 5:44-48). Could we not then love those who, while they do not engender the greatest of feelings, nevertheless are undoubtedly not our enemies? Surely if loving our enemies means being children of our Father in heaven, we can love those who are undoubtedly not our enemies.

Society, however, places a premium not upon this kind of love, but upon the kind of love that is defined by emotion only. If there is no emotion, then there is no love. It is no wonder that we see so many in our society today who seek for divorce due to "incompatibility." They are "incompatible" because they do not want to be compatible;

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