

## Love's Contagion

**Grounds for divorce** is adultery—not whether one prefers his sandwich buttered on both pieces of bread. What does that have to do with love? It means just this: Two people who vow to become one should not part over things that don't strike at the very heart of their union.

For years I have witnessed people in the church literally divorcing one another (leaving one flock for another flock—spiritual divorce) over whether the bread is buttered on both slices or not. Love mends and a lack of it rends.

Listen to Peter, *Love one another deeply because love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8)*. The word translated deeply here can be rendered “constantly.” It's like oil which is applied to something and it keeps making things run smoothly regardless of the roughness of the road. Love for one another is what keeps the body together. We, at times, have made a shambles out of the church for lack of love. We have at times reduced the church of the living Lord to how we want our sandwich made.

Love is the one relationship constant which allows the body to “stretch” instead of breaking. Remember my sign: **HE WHO IS FLEXIBLE NEVER GETS BENT OUT OF SHAPE.** Only love allows us to flex enough to keep the body in tact.

The model church in the New Testament Scriptures for me is Antioch. This was a mixed church to say the least. Jews and Gentiles from all walks of life were added to the body of Jesus there. One church, one Savior, and one set of Scriptures. Wouldn't you like to know how they got together on anything??? I'm sure they didn't agree about everything. They had love for one another because the love of Jesus was contagious. **THAT'S IT!**

I learn how to love you by how Jesus loved and loves me. How does love bind us together in the midst of diversity? I believe it is by the absolute decision that I have been loved and forgiven and I am going to love and forgive others. Forgiveness is the **ONLY THING THAT WILL KEEP A MARRIAGE TOGETHER AFTER UNFAITHFULNESS!** Unity is just more of a value than separation. That's repeatable: **UNITY IS JUST MORE OF A VALUE THAN SEPARATION!**

Here is what 1 Peter 4:8 says again, *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.* The multitude of sins that are covered here are sins of our brothers. Now we know it is the love of God that forgives our sins (John 3:16-17) and our brothers' sins, but the love of God is contagious. When we understand fully that our sins—the very thing that has SEPARATED us from God has been erased by love, we **MUST** imitate that love because it is **CONTAGIOUS** or we do not comprehend it at all. We “catch” it or we miss it.

It is just here that we have to say that unity is never de jure but is always de facto. This means that unity will **NEVER** be won by law but by the fact that love conquers sin. God's love for me is contagious. I catch it from God. Pure love, undefiled love, conquering love, and forgiving love is from God but our love for each other keeps us together and amazes our neighbors. Then when they see it going on they want some of that kind of relational love that unites people who are different.

Antioch could have divided into many “churches.” They could have been divided along preferential lines like so many of us have. **GOD'S LOVE IS CONTAGIOUS. HAVE YOU CAUGHT IT YET? yc**

### PRAYER LIST

- ♥Michelle, a friend of LeAnn Harcharik, is having problems in her pregnancy.
- ♥Sean Covich, a friend of Becca Dear and Monte Young, lost everything in an apartment fire Sunday night.
- ♥Allen McDaniel's father, Cecil McDaniel, is recovering in the VA in Memphis.
- ♥Allen McDaniel is still recovering.
- ♥Billy Jack McDaniel and family as he recovers.
- ♥Web and Polly Shivers, friends of the Kipatrick's, are in poor health.
- ♥Rudy Staggs, Ashley Nowlen's father, diagnosed with lung cancer.
- ♥Lynn Snellgrove, a friend of Barry Rhodes, has Sceroderma.
- ♥David Lynn Taylor, Lena Price's brother, needs prayer to find peace.
- ♥Joe Saia, Cindy Saia's husband, radiation treatments.

### CONTINUE TO REMEMBER

Betsy Canfield, Tony Dority, Howard Farrar, Beverly Huffstetler, Mary Louise Gipson, Beverly Graham, Charlotte Hunter, Larry Mittlestat, Mart Salley and Joey Sanderford

### CRAFTERS CLUB

Joy would like to invite all those interested in crafting to her home on March 3 from 1:00 till ... Bring whatever you are currently working on, come with ideas to help those in our community, come to learn new things, and come to fellowship.

### FAMILY WEEKEND

Skyway will host a Family Weekend of February 24-25. There will be pizza, singing, and worship on Saturday night starting at 5:30 pm. On Sunday morning we will have a breakfast followed by Sunday School and worship. Guest speaker will be Alan Robertson from the Whites Ferry Road congregation in Monroe, LA. Song leader will be Jason Jenkins.

### LADIES CLASS

A Ladies Class began February 11 in the Women's Ministry Room.

### LIFE GROUP UPDATE

The Blevins Life group is meeting at the building at 6:00 on Sunday Evenings.

### PANTRY

The Pantry still needs help. Critical items: fruit cocktail, Spam, chicken noodle soup, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, grape jelly, green beans and corn. Low items: instant mashed potatoes and peanut butter.

### FOOD MINISTRY

From time to time occasions, such as family illness, death in family, or accidents, arise where families need our assistance with food. If you would like to commit to bringing a food item for such occasions, please see the sign-up sheet on the Ladies' Bulletin Board.

### LADIES NIGHT OUT

The next Ladies Night Out will be March 29 at 7:00 pm in the Ladies Ministry Room. Bring finger foods. See Kim McDaniel, Ann Ellis, or Mary Ellen Hester if you have questions.

### SILVER HATTERS FELLOWSHIP

A new ministry is being established to bring together our Senior Citizens. There will be a kick-off potluck lunch on March 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the Women's Ministry Room. See Kim McDaniel for more details.

### GRAD SUNDAY

Grad Sunday will be May 6. Start inviting your friends and relatives for this day of celebration. Graduates need to have their pictures to Debbie or Jenny by March 4.

### LEADERSHIP MEETING

The next leadership meeting for elders, deacons, and ministers will be March 4.

### SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

Contact Tim Nelson if unable to serve at 601-853-3704.

### 2/18/07

Greeters ..... Blevins Life Group  
 Song Leader ..... Tim Nelson  
 Call to Worship ..... Dusty Reynolds  
 Prayer ..... Jerry Mitchell  
 Presiding ..... Wayne Bridges  
 Closing Prayer ..... Bobby Stewart

### Serving

Lamar Kilpatrick Tim Nowlen  
 Keaton Sweeney Allen Rogers  
 Paul McManaway Allen McDaniel

Evening Worship ..... Life Groups  
 Nursery ..... Sue Livingston  
 Children's Worship ..... Justin McCoy  
 Jennie Miller

### 2/25/07

Greeters ..... Sweeney Life Group  
 Song Leader ..... Jason Jenkins  
 Call to Worship ..... Dusty Reynolds  
 Prayer ..... Allen Rogers  
 Presiding ..... Paul McManaway  
 Closing Prayer ..... LaRan Kilpatrick

### Serving

Lamar Kilpatrick Mike Babin  
 Scottie Stanford Terry Hester  
 Charlie McMasters Terry Claunch

Evening Worship ..... Life Groups  
 Nursery ..... Jenny Farrar  
 Children's Worship..... Jennie Miller

### THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Feb. 18 – Lev. 26-27; Mark 2  
 Feb. 19 – Num. 1-2; Mark 3:1-21  
 Feb. 20 – Num. 3-4; Mark 3:22-35  
 Feb. 21 – Num. 5-6; Mark 4:1-20  
 Feb. 22 – Num. 7; Mark 4:21-41  
 Feb. 23 – Num. 8-10; Mark 5:1-20  
 Feb. 24 – Num. 11-13; Mark 5:21-41

### DATES TO REMEMBER

February 16-18 – Winterfest '07  
 February 24-25 – Family Weekend  
 March 2-4 – **Renewal** in Baton Rouge  
 March 4 – Leadership Meeting  
 March 4 – Graduate pictures due  
 March 17 – Silver Hatters Lunch  
 March 29 – Ladies Night Out  
 May 6 – Grad Sunday

| LIFE GROUPS   |              |                   |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Area          | Location     | Leaders           |
| South Brandon | Rotated      | Paul McManaway    |
|               |              | Glynn McMillen    |
| Crossgates    | Building     | David Blevins     |
|               |              | Lonnie Livingston |
| Florence/Star | Rotated      | Yale Canfield     |
|               |              | Allen McDaniel    |
| Brandon       | Sweeney Home | Jeff Sweeney      |
|               |              | Tim Farrar        |
| Reservoir     | Rogers Home  | Jim Head          |
|               |              | Allen Rogers      |
| Teens         | Varies       | Ken Salley        |
|               |              | Steve Perry       |
| Pearl         | Building     | Ron Morgan        |

**Not Meeting Through Winter**

**Mission Statement for Heart Matters**  
 To enhance the mission of the Skyway Hills church of Christ and to build a sense of community among the members of the body of Christ through an accurate and quality communication of 1) ministries and activities of the church 2) the opportunities for each member to find fulfillment as disciples of Jesus and 3) the scriptural application of God's Word to life relevant issues today.

**YOUTH**

**Upcoming Events**

Renewal 2007  
 Baton Rouge, LA  
 March 2-4

Featuring Watershed Worship,  
 Earl Lavender, and Revival Drama.

Heart Matters

**Skyway Hills Church of Christ**  
 Highway 80 East  
 P.O. Box 5600  
 Pearl, MS 39288

**Address Services Requested**

**Schedule of Service**  
 Sunday Bible Class.....9:00 am  
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 am  
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 pm  
 Wednesday..... 7:00 pm

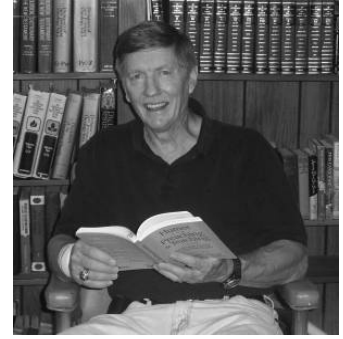
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**YAKS**

*“Since then,  
 you have  
 been raised  
 with  
 Christ,  
 set your  
 hearts  
 on things  
 above.”*  
 Colossians 3:1

**Skyway Hills Church of Christ**  
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 Elders - Lonnie Livingston • Al Garner  
 Minister – Yale Canfield  
 Email: [yalec@bellsouth.net](mailto:yalec@bellsouth.net)  
 Youth Minister – Ken Salley

February 18, 2007



# Heartbeat

When God moves in a congregation as he did Sunday, we just have to stand in awe. Preachers may write sermons but the Spirit of God writes the script if we will have the sense to wait, watch, and stand in wonder. Folks who want cookie cutter solutions to “doing church” haven’t let God in. God is not the author of confusion but he is the author! Amen?

God also spoke to many of us Sunday evening. He spoke to us through a wonderful couple who has been coming for some time now. Isn’t it wonderful to know a God who still speaks “beyond the sacred page?” Are we listening?

Well, our family weekend with Alan Robertson and Jason Jenkins is around the corner. This next week we must take some flyers into neighborhoods and invite people to our “Contagious for Christ Seminar.” This is a great opportunity. Please get involved with communicating with our neighborhoods.

Special thanks to Rocky Barnette for the devotional he led Sunday night as we gathered at the Family Life Center. His words about friendship were right on the money and it sparked four other men to get up and share encouraging words for the church. It was a special gathering for all of us. Thanks to Tim Farrar for leading our singing.

This Sunday we will speak about being contagious for Christ which will be the theme for our following weekend.

Remember to pray for all our members who will make the trip to Gatlinburg, TN for WinterFest.

- Deacons**
- David Blevins, Education
  - Tony Dority, Building
  - Tim Nelson, Calls/Visitor/Greeters
  - Jim Head, Life Groups
  - George Miller
  - Allen Rogers, YAKS