

Dearest SISTERS-IN-CHRIST

February is often thought of as the “LOVE MONTH”, with romance being at the center. But do you know that the Bible uses THREE different Hebrew/Greek words for our English word “LOVE”?

1. “EROS” or romantic love
2. “ AGAPE” general affection & commitment
3. “PHILEO” or brotherly love. This is the love we want to look at this month.

Once we become a Believer, we are now a part of the **FAMILY** of God and now we have a whole plethora of siblings! Scripture instructs us to “LOVE THE BRETHREN”. ***“As you live God-like, be kind to Christian brothers and sisters and love them.”*** (2 Peter 1:7 CEV)

The key to our loving other Believers with brotherly love is to train ourselves to think properly about the other members of the family of God. God calls us to view each Believer as one “for whom Christ died”. In Christ, God has laid down His life for the Brethren. We, too, are to lay down our lives for one another. Jesus has patiently born with us. We, too, are to bear with one another. Jesus has died to forgive us of our sins. We, too, are to forgive one another. Jesus continues to build us up in the truth. We, too, are to build one another up in the truth. Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us. We, too, are to intercede for one another. Jesus has given us every provision for our lives in this world and in the world to come. We, too, are to share our provisions and lives with one another both now and for all of eternity. “HOW?” You may be asking., “How are we to do this?” The answer is in the context of the local church, specifically for us, Hayden Bible Church.

We live in an incredible time of technology, where we can still view church when unable to attend,(live streaming etc.) BUT we MUST be using that as the exception, not the rule. This is commanded in Scripture: ***“Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord’s coming is getting closer.”*** (Hebrews 10:25 CEV)

Nothing takes the place of being together, with God’s people – **FAMILY** -- on a Sunday Morning! Pastor Steve wrote in the Spokesman Review back in June 2020, “The church’s physical gathering is a glad and visible expression of its spiritual nature: believers are the called-out people of God, united by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. To neglect, or forsake, assembling with other believers is to turn from God’s design for His church and embrace a false substitute: the notion that Christianity is individualistic, rather than familial or communal. At their very core, church gatherings are not events held so that we can consume spiritual content. Church gatherings are ***an essential*** means of grace whereby Believers worship and are equipped to live as God’s witness people in the world.”

You are **FAMILY** and you are **LOVED**



**Your WOMEN’S MINISTRY TEAM,
Michele, Dianne, Trudi, Jody, Kelli, Aundrea, Karen, Cindy and Lori**