

COLLINSVILLE-TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Focus on God's Word Find the Truth Follow the Lord



Sunday Worship Assembly 9:30 AM
Sunday Bible Classes (All Ages) 10:30 AM
Wednesday Adult Bible Class 1:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes (All Ages) 7:00 PM



The Correspondent

Vol. 51 No. 47

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth
1 Thessalonians 1:8

November 19, 2023

Words Are Necessary!

-Joe Slater

Preach the gospel at all times. And if necessary, use words.” Rightly or wrongly, the saying has been attributed to “Saint” Francis of Assisi and is often paraphrased, “Preach the gospel; use words if necessary.”

Let me be the last to discourage anyone from setting a good example. I understand the gist of the lines from Edgar Guest’s poem: “I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I’d rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.” Countless doors for the gospel have been slammed shut and permanently locked due to poor examples and outright hypocrisy of professing Christians.

That being said, your kindness, morality, pure speech, and honesty cannot inform anyone of their need for salvation, much less answer the question, “What must I do to be saved.” Words are necessary! Nobody will know who Jesus is or what He did for us merely by seeing your example. Peter didn’t say to Jesus, “You have the example of eternal life.” He said, “You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).

The quip, “Use words if necessary,” strongly suggests that words probably aren’t necessary and may not even be desirable; it translates into a comfortable excuse to disobey the divine directive to speak the truth in love. “Use words if necessary” ignores God’s own stated goal and wish: “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21).

Yes, there’s a message to be preached, not just an example to be set. Nobody will know of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, much less how to respond to it, simply by seeing your example of clean living.

You open the door with your good example. Then go through that door with the words of the gospel!

- Joe Slater serves as minister of the Church of Christ in Justin, TX.
- Article obtained from bulletingold.com

Connections



facebook.com/CTCofC



anchor.fm/renn-ferguson4



youtube.com/@CTCofC

collinsville-troycoc.org

Holiday Baskets
December 9



2023 Theme:
Children of Light

*The Correspondent is a weekly publication of the
COLLINSVILLE-TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST. The church
meets at 1400 Troy Road, Collinsville, Illinois 62234*

What Is Love?

1 Corinthians 13:5-6

I. Love Does Not Insist On Its Own Way.

A. Love is not controlling- 1 Peter 5:3, 3 John 10, Galatians 6:12-15

B. Love is not condescending- Romans 14:1-3, 13-15

II. Love Is Not Irritable Or Resentful.

A. Love is self-controlled- James 1:19, Jonah 4:2, Colossians 3:13

B. Love does not keep a record- Hebrews 8:12, Ephesians 4:32

III. Love Rejoices.

A. Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing- Romans 1:32, 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, Galatians 6:1-2

B. Love rejoices in truth- Luke 15:7, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, Philippians 1:18

Worship Service

Announcements

Song: 619 Take Time to Be Holy (v. 1, 2, 4)

Song: 419 Lord, We Come Before Thee Now (v. 1, 2, 4)

Prayer

Song: 511 Oft We Come Together

Lord's Supper & Contribution

Song: 583 Sing to Me of Heaven

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:5-6

Sermon: What Is Love?

Song: 520 Only a Step

Song: 851 (v. 1) Blue Skies and Rainbows

Prayer

1 Corinthians 13

- ¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
- ² And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.
- ⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
- ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
- ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

What Is Love?

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J	O	R	N	I	T	S	O	W	N	O	O	K	N
S	T	E	D	H	E	E	E	H	E	B	E	N	I
O	N	S	T	E	E	R	T	L	N	K	S	I	N
D	R	U	H	V	Q	R	E	I	T	O	N	H	I
R	R	U	A	O	O	J	Y	V	E	O	O	T	Q
T	S	H	O	N	S	D	B	E	O	E	T	R	U
S	E	E	I	I	E	T	U	O	K	U	L	R	I
B	S	I	N	T	H	E	T	N	N	H	K	O	T
N	N	L	S	E	C	I	O	J	E	R	N	U	Y
N	L	N	K	E	E	S	T	N	S	E	O	D	E
J	R	V	N	R	U	D	E	L	Y	T	P	O	J
D	E	K	O	V	O	R	P	T	N	S	I	E	O
I	U	P	D	N	S	E	E	O	T	O	I	I	R

THINKS
BUT
TRUTH
REJOICES
DOESN'T-SEEK
BEHAVE
NOT-REJOICE
DOES-NOT
IN-THE
NO-EVIL
ITS-OWN
IN-INIQUITY
ISN'T PROVOKED
RUDELY

What must I do to be saved?

Hear: Romans 10:17. Believe: Mark 16:16. Repent: Acts 2:38.

Confess: Romans 10:9-10. Be Baptized: Acts 2:38. Live Faithfully: Revelation 2:10