



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, February 6, 2022

Office hours: Mon / Wed / Fri 9:00am-3:00pm.

Contact info: office@greenbankcoc.org or 302-994-3800

The Most Neglected Component of Discipleship by M. Kelley

Fasting? Prayer? Scripture memory? Solitude?

Nope. I think it's love.

What does the greatest command hinge upon? Love. What will be the defining characteristic of followers of Jesus? Love. What will never pass away, even after faith and hope are gone? Love.

Love is the mark of the disciple. But here's the problem: You can't teach love.

You can teach how to effectively memorize Scripture, everything from acrostic memory devices to methods of placing cards for reading at strategic places. Similarly, you can teach someone how to fast – what to expect on day 1, day 2, and so forth, and how to respond to the temptation of hunger. You can teach someone how to pray. The tools abound in terms of journals, philosophies, and books. But how do you teach someone to love?

This is perhaps the one element of discipleship that can't be faked. Surely there are many, according to Jesus, who might perform miracles, drive out demons, and do all other kinds of religious things that will not enter the kingdom of heaven. We can become very adept at "playing disciple" by our sheer acts of will. We can even force ourselves into positions of service and postures of generosity. But love? Real genuine love? That's something you can't manufacture.

Nevertheless, Jesus said that "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). Despite this statement, all our current metrics of discipleship focus on things like knowledge of the Bible and time spent in prayer. Those are all also important marks of discipleship, but love is infinitely more difficult (and perhaps impossible) to quantify.

Nobody ever loved by gritting their teeth and deciding to do it. It's not like that. True, love is grown over time, and like most other things, our appetite for love grows through exercises of the will. That is, we choose to engage in activities of love even when we don't feel like it because we believe that in doing so, our love will grow. But ultimately, even these actions can't force us to love.

That's actually why, I think, love is the defining characteristic of discipleship – because love – true love – can only come from a true, vibrant, and constant experience of the gospel. The gospel is what love is – that's the true measure of love. Those who truly love demonstrate they have been loved and are growing in their understanding of the great love of God in Christ.

Praise & Prayer Requests

Robert Leager family– he passed away suddenly; he is the father-in-law to Rory & Shelley Irwin's daughter, Whitney.

Cameron Fore family: as they grieve his sudden passing.

Lisa Reed: travel safety to and from Houston for her nephew's funeral.

Luis, Jesus & Dani: (Domingo Reyes' cousins) that God may help them in their current struggles.

Paul King: being treated for a blood clot in his lung.

Pat Greenwood: has shingles.

Bill Betit Jr: having difficulty swallowing as a result of radiation treatments on his vocal cords.

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders, minister, & deacons as they lead our congregation.

Spanish Ministry: pray for encouragement and growth in this new ministry.

Greenbank missions: Westerholm (Mozambique), Borfay (Liberia), Agbeta (Ghana), Camp Manatawny, Reflect Campus Missions/BHC. Pray for a new mission work that reflects the interest of our members.

Pray for unity in our country and for our leaders to seek God's wisdom and guidance.

If you have an item for prayer or praise, please email it to office@greenbankcoc.org for inclusion in our weekly list. To view previous prayer requests and those on our ongoing lists, please visit the Weekly Bulletins page on our website www.greenbankcoc.org.

Announcements and Events

Children's Church

Children 3 years old through 3rd grade will meet today in the yellow room downstairs during the sermon.

Winterfest – Pre-Trip Meeting

All Winterfest attendees are asked to stay after worship next Sunday, Feb. 13 for a brief meeting about the trip. This is an important meeting. Please do your best to attend. If you are making payments, the final \$60 is due the same day. Anyone who would like to sponsor a student to attend Winterfest, please speak with Boyd or Lisa Reed.

Greek Class

George Kirkland will begin a class on April 6th teaching the Greek of the New Testament. This class will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the blue room. It will be our online class as well. We need to know how many study books to order, so if you want to participate in the class, please write your name on the list posted on the bulletin board or contact the church office so we can add you. Cost of the study book will be about \$20.

Pray for the Work in Mozambique

Please lift these specific items up in prayer: for the Bailey family as they travel back to Tanzania to close their house and move to Mozambique; for the local church to identify needy refugee families; that the Metto Bible will continue to spread in the region; for Chad's truck to pass inspection; for Chad's class on Mark to spark introspection into current church practices and personal sin issues; for new church plants in Campona and Mapupulu; for an upcoming seminar as they prepare to translate the Psalms.

Grief Share

Our Spring session begins March 14 and runs through June 13. Each meeting is held on Zoom from 6:30-8:30pm. To join, register online at www.griefshare.org. If you have questions, contact Judy or Mike Barker.

Small Groups

Resolve to join a small group this year to strengthen your relationship with God and the church. Meeting times and locations for all groups are posted on the bulletin board near the blue room.

Sunday Meeting Times

In-Person Bible Classes for All Ages @ 9:30 a.m. including a Spanish-speakers class (adults).

In-Person Worship Service – English & Spanish @ 10:30 a.m.

The English service is live streamed with 3 ways to connect:

- 1) **Facebook Live:** <http://www.facebook.com/greenbankchurchofchrist>
- 2) **Greenbank Website:** www.greenbankcoc.org Click on the Facebook Live tab on the menu bar at the top of the page. You do NOT need a Facebook account to view the service through our website.
- 3) **Phone In:** (301) 715-8592 Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992

BIBLE STUDIES

Singles – Tuesdays @ 7pm – led by Mark DaBaldo; currently meeting via Zoom.

In Person – Wednesdays @ 7pm – John's Epistles led by George Kirkland.

Online – Wednesdays @ 7pm – led by Domingo Reyes. Connect as you would on Sunday.

Spanish (In-Person)– Thursdays @ 6:30 pm – Contact Domingo Reyes for more information.

Ladies – 2nd Saturday each month @ 11am on Zoom – “A Woman Who Doesn't Quit” led by Crystal Reyes.

Men – 3rd Saturday each month @ 10am at Greenbank led by Mark Ray.

3 Ways to Give

We appreciate those who have been able to maintain regular giving.

- 1) **In Person:** You may give your contribution during our Sunday morning worship service, or drop it off at the office on Monday or Wednesday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- 2) **By Mail:** Send your contribution to 511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.
- 3) **Online:** PayPal has been set up on our website www.greenbankcoc.org. Click on the “Donate” button and follow the instructions. (Note: there is a small fee assessed from each donation.)

Last Week: Attendance: 79 Contribution: \$3,260 Weekly Average: \$4,799