

The God Of Heaven

has summoned you to a

Memorial Supper

in honor of

His Son, Jesus the Christ

on the first day of each week

at the meeting place of

The Church of Christ

424 South Snyder

Justin, Texas

The supper will be surrounded by other edifying worship activities which begin at 10:20 a.m. Seating arrangements have been made for you and your family.

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What if you found the above announcement in your mail box? How would you react to it?

Actually, you already have the notice. The postal service didn't deliver it. It's been in your Bible all along:

“Do this in remembrance of Me” (Luke 22:19).

“Now on the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread”

(Acts 20:7)

Isn't That What Love Does?

Each time I read the historical account associated with Samson, I can't help but reflect on his stupidity! Whatever is to be said about Delilah, or any other person in Judges 13-16, it's Samson who plays with fires and gets burned.

As much as I marvel at Samson, I learn that what plagued a people then plagues us as well: a failure to understand what love is and does. Delilah sold her dignity and defined her actions as “love” toward Samson; but Samson didn't have the wisdom to see that she was a wolf in sheep's clothing. He didn't see it because he evidently thought that “love” would not betray him.

When example after example presented itself he dismissed it because God, he thought, loved him and would not leave him. A misunderstanding of love results in a misapplication of the same. Love does not manipulate, does not betray, and will not suffer fools. Love will, however, instruct, persuade, hold in confidence, and correct the foolish. God did.

--Ron Thomas (Sullivan, IL) via *Bulletin Gold*

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A dog owner was trying to force-feed his dog some cod liver oil. The dog resisted violently. As the “fight” continued, some of the oil spilled onto the floor. The dog eagerly lapped it up. It wasn't the medicine he was rejecting; it was the method of delivery.

Some of us seem to think that one honestly mistaken about some doctrine needs to be rebuked and condemned rather than taught. When we do this, we often do more harm than good, solidifying people in their error.

When we are correcting a brother overtaken in a fault, we are to do so with gentleness and humility (Gal. 6:1). When we answer those who ask for a reason for our hope, we are to answer with gentleness and respect (2 Peter 3:16). Whenever we speak, we are to speak truth with love (Ephesians 4:15).

--Cecil May, Jr. (Montgomery, AL) via *Preacher Talk*

Cross Cutters

I once saw a cartoon reminiscent of the scene from Mark 8:34 in which Lord Jesus challenged believers to “take up the cross.” Within the cartoon, numerous figures were dragging large crosses. Each moved slowly under the weight of the oversized burden. Suddenly, a character “spoke out” and asked, “Is there a way to lift some of this load?” The next depiction showed the cartoon character sawing off a portion of the cross, thereby lightening his load.

From that moment on, the cartoon character (with his “new and improved” cross) moved out ahead until he reached a large crevasse. The huge gap had no bridge, thereby stranding the character. Others arrived, lowered their crosses onto the crevasse, bridged the gap, and then resumed the journey. Suddenly, the character discovered that the new and improved version did not reach. He found himself stranded. Realizing his mistake, the character fell to his knees in prayer.

This story may be fiction, but it mirrors a common problem: a lack of true dedication among members. Rather than being devoted to Lord Jesus, some choose to take a non-committal approach. Sadly, the “short cross lifestyle” often leaves people unprepared (and unequipped) for the tough times. Such a choice is inconsistent with the words of Christ when he states: “*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me*” (Luke 9:23, NKJV).

Don't be a cross cutter!

--Kenny Westmorland (Celina, TN)