

Date Night

Drop your children off for a fun evening and enjoy a free night off!

NOVEMBER 30TH | 4:30-7:00PM | THE BIBLE HOUSE

LEARNER'S EXCHANGE

- Nov. 10 - Campus Evangelism
- Nov. 17 - Evangelizing to Jehovah's Witnesses
- Nov. 24 - Evangelizing the Workplace in the 21st Century
- Dec. 1 - Neighbourhood Evangelism
- Dec. 8 - Evangelizing Children

STARTING NOV 10 | 9:15 - 9:45AM | THE OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE LOBBY



DECEMBER 5TH | 7:45PM | TEXT SHAUN AT 873-354-0552



DECEMBER 7TH | 5PM | THE BIBLE HOUSE

MESSIAH OFFICE | 315 LISGAR ST. OTTAWA ON, K2P0E1

SUNDAY SERVICE | OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE, 400 KING EDWARD AVE. OTTAWA, ON



CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

Welcome!

LETTERS FROM A ROMAN JAIL

Ephesians

NOVEMBER 24TH

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS GRIPPED BY THE GOSPEL,
LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY.

GOOD NEWS! GOD DOES NOT LOVE YOU UNCONDITIONALLY

Dear Friends,

To tell most Canadians that you should not love unconditionally would be to shock them. They would probably think you are clueless or wicked or both. The same is true of Canadian Christians. If I say that God does not love you unconditionally, most Christians will think I do not know what Christianity teaches at a deep and fundamental level. So, just to be clear, the Bible does not teach that God loves unconditionally or that you should love unconditionally and that is good news, a sign that the Bible is wise.

I do not know who first coined the term "unconditional love", but I do know who popularized it; Carl Rogers (1902-1987). He was a therapist/counsellor and his approach is often referred to as Rogerian counselling/therapy. It was immensely influential. Rogers developed the idea of unconditional love to separate "love" from "moral judgements". In other words, to truly love, you need to separate love from "the good" our beliefs about what is right and wrong. We need to show unconditional love, with no moral judgement.

Thinking and living are not completely imprisoned and determined by language, but the words we use and the ideas we believe are very important as to how we think and live. One of the reasons modern Christians, including evangelicals, have problems thinking through many contemporary moral issues is because we believe that God loves the person unconditionally, so we should love them unconditionally. But this is very untrue. To give but one of countless examples, sit down and read Ephesians 5:1-6. We have a clear command to imitate God and walk in love.

(Continued on next page)

For your Prayers

To balance our books for 2019, we estimate
that we need \$85,000

But then, in the very next sentence, it tells us to forsake all sexual immorality, impurity, and covetousness/avarice. You cannot love apart from seeking the true good. To turn your back on the good, is to turn your back on love.

A better expression is "unfailing love". Think about God; He is pure, unfailing love. But He is also pure, unfailing goodness, justice, truth, mercy. There is no tension in God in this. He never chooses between love and goodness. He is always only love; always only good; always only just. His love is unfailing, but it is not separate from goodness, so His love is not unconditional.

Go back and read the end of Ephesians 4 and the beginning of Ephesians 5. It is because the triune God loves us unfailingly (not unconditionally) that Jesus came to save us. The Lord saw that my mind was darkened; my will was bound; I did much wrong and habitually failed to do what is right; my sexuality and identity was bent; I gave myself to idols; and I could not help or save myself. God did not say, "Oh well, I love George unconditionally." No. "In love He came and sought me". "In my place condemned He stood". Perfect love. Perfect justice. Perfect mercy. The Gospel.

To love someone has to involve a selfless concern for their flourishing in true good. So "love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love hears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, ESV). Be gripped by the Gospel and seek to imitate God, who is unfailingly good, unfailingly true, unfailingly just, unfailingly merciful – and with no tension, loves unfailingly.

George+

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I NEED TO DEVELOP GODLY ATTITUDES.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

ATTITUDES.

1. When I say, "let's improve the Bible" I combine self-flattery with disobedience and faithfulness.
2. Why wouldn't I want to have the Gospel as the model for my marriage?
3. It is a mystery but true, when I bow to the Lord Jesus Christ I can finally stand straight.

I NEED TO GROW IN PRAYER.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading:

Almighty God, we thank You for the gift of marriage, ordained by You at the beginning of creation, redeemed by Your Son in His life, death and resurrection, and a profound symbol of the relationship of Christ Jesus to His church. Bless all who are single to be grounded in the Gospel and shaped by it. Bless each man and woman who are married, and each marriage, to be grounded in the Gospel and shaped by it. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

I NEED TO GET GOD'S WORD IN MY MIND AND HEART.

"However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

Ephesians 5:33 ESV

I NEED TO DO SOMETHING OR START TO DO SOMETHING.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to _____."

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