

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

March 31

2019

## Would You?

Would You? Check your heart, and I'll check mine. A man/woman you have strong disagreement with is unaware of a car about to strike him. Would you put your life in danger to save that person? If the answer is "no", then we are not getting the principle of love for all men and have no way of appreciating what Jesus did on the cross for us. What if you knew that the person in danger is someone who hates you? Would you still try to push them out of the path of the car?

What if they hurt you really badly with words that undermine your worth and treat you as worthless? Would you still love and value them enough to try to save them from danger? I am applying this test to you and me, and it is the test Jesus passed.

*"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:6-9)

This is the test that Jesus is asking us to pass. Let's think of various ways we can begin passing such a test today and every day. Amen?

✍ Robert F. Turner

## Always...

When defined, the word "always" means "every time or all the time," and it implies to doing something on every occasion without exception. So, knowing that, let's go to the Scriptures, and let's take a look at some things that we should always do. Starting with, we should always...

### 1) Pray.

In Luke 18:1, we learn that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. Therefore, let's be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let's make our request known to God (Philippians 4:6-7), let's continue earnestly in prayer (Colossians 4:2), and let's be a people who pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

### 2) Abound In The Work of The Lord.

The apostle Paul, writing to the saints in Corinth, penned, "...my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Now, may all Christians take those words of Paul to heart, and always be one who without exception abounds in the work of the Lord.

### 3) Be Zealous In A Good Thing.

Paul informed the churches of Galatia, "*But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you*" (Galatians 4:18). Folks, zeal is a good thing, but it is only good if it is properly directed (Romans 10:2-3). Therefore, be zealous for good works (Titus 2:14), and be one who is always zealous in a good thing.

### 4) Rejoice In The Lord.

To rejoice is to express a feeling of great joy or delight, and in Philippians 4:4, Paul instructs the saints in Philippi to "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*" You see, those who are "in the Lord" like those saints who were in Philippi have a great reason to express joy. For, those in Christ are the ones who have been blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3), they have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7), and

because of that, there is no greater reason to rejoice.

**5) Let Our Speech Be With Grace, Seasoned With Salt.**

In Colossians 4:6, Paul writes, *“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each other.”* So, knowing that, may our speech be with lovingkindness (Ephesians 4:29), and may it likewise provide zest.

**6) Be Ready To Give A Defense To Everyone.**

Peter exhorts Christians to *“...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”* (1 Peter 3:15). Friends, never forget those words of Peter and be one who is always prepared to give a defense for the hope that is within you, and make sure that you do so in a gentle and respectful manner.

Now, in conclusion, I encourage us all to always be found doing these things.

*✍ Brad Phillips*



**Church Issues and Love ...**

Throughout church history, divisive issues have arisen among Christians, even to this present day. While this should concern us, it should not cause excessive alarm. They are to be expected. After all, the apostle Paul wrote in the First Century: *“For, in the first place, when you assemble as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and I partly believe it, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.”* (1 Corinthians 11:18-19 RSV). Just a causal reading of the New Testament shows that a large part of it deals with early schisms.

During my own lifetime, I have seen a goodly number of church rifts. After the dust settled and dividing lines were drawn, many Monday morning quarterbacks, who were either nowhere near or had chosen to remain aloof during the gut-wrenching struggle, freely alleged that had there been more love by all parties it would not have happened.

It is simply amazing how many people think that all church problems, no matter their nature, can be completely solved with more love. That would be true if they were all hate based. However, in more cases than not, problems spring from deeper disagreements over fundamental Bible teaching. It is possible to love one another dearly while still divided over vital moral and spiritual convictions. While love can HELP repair any breach of fellowship, it is not the “magic bullet” for completely solving all differences.

These folks see doctrinal differences as being no obstacle to unity if all have the right attitude. These minimize the seriousness of issues caused by doctrinal error and moral turpitude. They do not see why the parties cannot meet and work together, united by love for each other. They look for ways to reduce fundamental Bible-based convictions to the level of insignificance. Love is everything to them.

About 45 years ago, three other preachers and I met with four preachers of different persuasion to discuss some of the differences between us. The prayer at the beginning of the session signaled how little would be accomplished by the discussions. Among other things, the man prayed, “Lord, we thank you for LOVE. We know that love is everything. We know that LOVE is MORE IMPORTANT than being RIGHT.”

*✍ Edward O. Bragwell Sr.*

**Belleville church of Christ**  
 5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258  
[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

**Schedule of Services**

Sunday Bible Study . . . . .	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship . . . . .	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship . . . . .	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study . . . . .	7:00 p.m.

**Evangelist**

James Hahn . . . . . (317) 443-1938