

Searching for God

Week 5: 'Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend'

"God's love for us should produce in us an active love for others."

1 John 4:7-13

Loving One Another

7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

13 And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.

Question for you: what would you say to your friend/loved one if they got engaged to someone they had only been dating for a couple of months? Would you tell them to pump the brakes, or try to talk them out of it, or would you congratulate them on finding "the one" so early on in the relationship?

Maybe you're someone who didn't date their spouse very long before either popping the question or having it popped at you (to you?). That's the case with your friendly neighborhood lead pastor and my lovely bride. I'll tell more of the story this coming Sunday, but in short, it didn't take me long to figure out I wanted to marry Jessi, and it didn't take her long to say "yes!" You might think we're crazy for moving so quickly, but 20 years of marriage and four kids later, and I'd say it's starting to get pretty serious!

God also made a commitment very quickly - when he created you, he made a commitment to love you forever, no matter what. When he redeemed you with Jesus' blood, he brought you into his family, and it's a commitment that he'll keep forever. The bible tells us that when we're baptized, we're filled with his Holy Spirit, and Paul says in Ephesians 1:14 that the Spirit is a "deposit" of sorts, guaranteeing our inheritance in Christ.

This Sunday, we'll talk about our place in the family, and what it means to be the children of God, and specifically, the children of a God who defines himself as love.

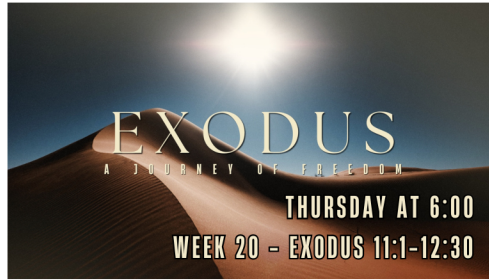
Prayer Requests



Lynne Wilhelm
Ron & Teresa Scott
Amy Bare (Bea Burgdoerfer's daughter)

Marcia Clark
Lawrence Johnson
Mindy Kennedy (passing of her brother)

**A weekly updated long term prayer list can be picked up in the lobby.



WEEKLY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Kim Carroll 2-14



Vitals for February 4

Weekly Need: \$3,200
Actual Given: \$4,653

Sunday School - 31
Morning Service - 65

3 easy ways to give:

- 'Tithes & Offerings' box in the lobby
- newheightsconnersville.com/giving
- Mail to the church office

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