

CONNECTING COUPLES TO CHRIST AND THEIR SPOUSE

Glen and Shawn Solberg | Serving Couples in Central Arkansas

Prayer Requests to Share

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 INCARNATE CHRIST: Please pray that we would truly exhibit the grace and truth of Jesus Christ to every couple He brings to us. Pray that we would indeed be "poor in Spirit", understanding that we can do nothing of lasting value without His help!

ABIDING MARRIAGE BOARD: We are so very thankful to have added our 5th Board Member. Thanks for your prayers for this request. He was able to join us for the January Board meeting last month.

FAMILY: Our daughter, Sarah, celebrates a birthday this month! So thankful for her!!

SELF-FEEDERS ON THE WORD: Pray that part of what we teach and communicate to couples is God's desire for them to be "self-feeders" on His Word. May they see His Word as a treasure to be discovered and take time daily to grow through studying the Bible.

FIRST LOVE & COMMUNITY: This is our consistent prayer: That we would never lose our "first love" for Jesus Christ and the pursuit of a deeply abiding relationship with Him. And after that, we would continue to make it a priority to be deeply connected to Christ-centered community in and outside of our local church.



Happy Valentine's Day!!!

Yes, it is February - the month we celebrate Valentine's Day! So we hope you are intentionally planning something together to CELEBRATE your marriage! It does not have to be fancy or expensive. But it should be thoughtful and hopefully meaningful to your spouse!

We are planning to celebrate either a day or two before or a day or two after Valentine's, as we don't want to fight the crowds on the 14th. Have fun whatever you do!

PLEASE SHARE: We'd love to hear what the two of you are doing/did to celebrate Valentine's Day. Please shoot Glen a quick email at his email address shown below — and we'd love to see a picture of y'all as well! Thanks in advance for sharing!

QUESTION: Is Love Really a Need to be Met?

*As a Biblical Counselor, I am confronted almost every session with a husband or wife wrestling with their view of love. All of us are “influenced” by our culture to believe things about love that are just not true biblically. When I read the following article by **Jeremy Lelek**, it opened my eyes and heart to hear a biblical truth that is critical for all of us, as Christ-followers, to understand. Please take a few minutes to read it, and then ask God to help you, not just know it, but to renew your mind with this truth, and to put it into practice in every relationship He has given you!*

For the past several decades Christians have been bombarded by the mental health establishment with the message that in order to love well, one must have *his or her* “need” for love adequately met. This secular hypothesis was posed by humanistic theorists decades ago, and the Church has often embraced it as if it emerged from the very Word of God. There have even been some within Christendom who have gone so far as to add to the two commands offered by Jesus to “Love God and others” with a third command to love *yourself*. (Luke 12:31) While the messages of “love tanks” and “love languages” have profoundly shaped the way believers view love within marriages, such messages may have served only to confuse believers as to what godly love actually is.

Where has such teaching gone wrong? The message of “love needs” feels so accurate. Anyone involved relationally with another individual can certainly attest to the fact that it is much easier to love when being loved (or having one’s “love tank” filled or one’s “love language” spoken). Yet, this view of love has led many within the Church far away from the Bible’s conceptualization of what love truly exemplifies. Not to mention, it has created an expectation within marriage that has tragically left many couples discouraged and disillusioned. This being the case, it is noteworthy to briefly examine the Bible’s teachings on the topic.

Love As a Debt, Not as a Need: Rather than framing love among believers as a “need” to be sought, Paul framed it as a “debt” to be paid. In Romans 13:8, Paul says, “*Let no outstanding debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another...*” (NIV). For the average human being (if not all human beings) this statement runs completely counter to the heart’s natural perception of things. To view love in relationship as something “I owe” versus something “I need” is staggering. Yet, it is precisely how Paul explained it. His exposition of love in I Corinthians 13 completely highlights the outward focus of true love in that it is “patient”, “kind”, “rejoices in truth”, “protects”, “trusts”, “hopes”, and “perseveres”. These characteristics stand in stark contrast to what love is not: pride (I am the center of the universe, and my “needs” must be attended), rude (I will use and manipulate you to get what I want), and self-seeking (I will meet your “needs” so you will meet my “needs” in return). Paul points couples to something much higher than this. He points them to the eternal decrees spoken by Jesus: “Love God” and “love your neighbor”.

Keep reading by going to this short link -it will be worth it!!! rebrand.ly/blog-love-as-need

Bible Verses for This Month

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. Romans 12:9-12 New Living Translation