



Christian Coffee House Ministry, Inc.

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# newsletter

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1978

Even people in the world know (and when convenient will remind us) that the mark of a Christian is love. Jesus says: "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another. By this all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35. Because Christians are so aware of this emphasis on love, there is seldom much said about dealing with hatred in the Christian life. Like the woman who cleans her house in a hurry, we stuff our hatred, bitterness and resentment in closets and under the rug. This may fool casual visitors, but not the Holy Spirit.

What does God say about hatred? Well, the Bible tells us that the hatred of evil has a place in our lives. Psalm 97:10 says "Hate evil, you who love the Lord." The Word says that God hates evil actions and thoughts, and we also are instructed to "hate evil". But God loves people, and we are told to love (1) our neighbor (i.e. everyone) as ourselves and (2) one another (i.e. members of the body of Christ) as He has loved us.

Let's assume for the moment that we're all brothers and sisters in Christ. What exactly is John 13:34-35 saying to us? For one thing, it should be clear from this passage of scripture that love is an act of the will. We are ~~COM-~~MANDED to love one another. Now, if love was just an emotional response to something that pleased our senses, the Lord couldn't very well command us to do it. We would have no control over who, how, or why, we loved. But since God commands us to love, we are able to love by an act of the will.

In verse 35 Jesus says, "By this all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Disciple means "discipled one" or "one who is instructed". In other words Jesus is saying, "This is the way everybody will know that you are disciples of Me, and that I am your teacher, if you love each other as I have loved you."

When we receive Jesus as Savior, and the Holy Spirit makes His home in us, God begins His redemptive work. He starts to discipline us by correcting the patterns of sinful response we've built up throughout our lives. Most of these patterns result in bitterness, resentment and hatred. Like love, hatred is an act of the will. But it doesn't begin with the will. It begins with letting things like anger, hurt, frustration, anxiety or embarrassment gain control of our minds. The pattern is familiar. First, we have some negative emotional response to someone. Then instead of releasing ourselves through confession, we begin to rationalize our response. (e.g. "He wouldn't make me so angry if he didn't always interrupt me, take my parking space, talk behind my back, laugh at me in public" etc, etc, etc). Because of this rationaliza-

tion process we begin to harbor resentment in our hearts. We willfully hate the person. Our minds have come into the service of our emotions, and we feel we are being reasonable in harboring a grudge. This type of behavioral pattern was standard in all of us before Jesus came into our lives. Then we turned our wills over to Him and He reversed the pattern. He started with our wills, NOT our emotions. As we willfully choose Him and His life, He commands us to "love one another". As we will to love, our emotional responses change. We then "feel" love for others.

Sometimes our old man will rise up with those old emotional patterns that lead to the binding of our wills by hatred. We, as Christians, often respond in one of two ways. We either confess our bad feelings to God and our brother, seeking forgiveness, or we try to hide the fact that we have any resentments at all. When we resort to the latter, we are stepping out of the will of God. All kinds of evil come about because of this. We speak against our brother behind his back. At times we even go to him and tear him up verbally, ostensibly to "speak the truth in love", but really with impure motivation.

God is pretty heavy when it comes to hatred in the body of Christ. In Psalm 50:19-21 He says: "You let your mouth loose in evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your mother's own son. These things you have done, and I kept silence, you thought that I was just like you. I will reprove you, and state the case in order before your eyes."

We may think we have every good reason for speaking against our brother, but God knows better. He will "state the case in order" and show us that our negative emotions often get the better of us.

I John 3:15 is also very concise on this point. "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." It couldn't be put more strongly than that.

God has laid out a format for going to our brother and rebuking him in love if he has sinned (Matt. 18:15-17) and for confessing our sins (including grudges, resentment, etc. Matt. 5:21-26). Nursing grudges and speaking against our brothers and sisters are not included in this format. If the Church could only learn this lesson, what strength she would have! Only the world would be an enemy to the Christian, and his brother would build him up in the love of Christ.

Love in Christ,

Bill Brda

*By this is My Father glorified. that  
you bear much fruit. and so prove  
to be My disciples.* JOHN 15:8

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# \* CALENDAR \*

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- November 4th      MOVIE "Survival" is an adventure story about a family whose small airplane is forced down on a high desert mesa in Arizona. Without food, water, radio, without anyone knowing where their at, they come to the end of their rope. A real lesson for all of us during those times when we're at the end of our rope.
- November 11th      THE RICHMOND BROTHERS are back again. From Rockford, this contemporary gospel trio will be a blessing for you. If you like good easy listening, piano accompaniment and harmony you'll like The Richmond Brothers.
- November 18th      THE SKYLARK GOSPEL SINGERS are from our own home town Beloit. This black gospel group ministers redeemed soul music. Also JULIAN TREET, former Black Panther, will be guest speaker.
- November 25th      Closed for Thanksgiving unto the Lord!
- December 2nd      THE BAND CALLED LIGHT will be with us again. This fall they just released their first album "You ought to know Jesus". This contemporary rock band from DeKalb, Ill. not only is good listening but comical too. Come and enjoy yourselves in the Lord.
- December 9th      THE SON LIGHT SINGERS is a college choir group from the Rockford area. Come hear the harmony of many voices lifted in song unto the Lord.
- December 16th      CREATION I.N.C. on tour from Ohio, is a drama troupe sharing the Lord through plays, skits, songs, and dance. Just as Jesus shared much of the Truth through parables and example. This theatre group will prove to be a edifying illustration of Life to us all. Please don't miss this special opportunity.
- December 23rd      Closed for Christmas.
- December 30th      MOVIE "Truce in the Forest", a true story of an encounter between German and American soldiers in the Ardennes Forest, Dec.24th 1944. In the small cottage of a german women and her daughter they meet only to find peace in a war torn night.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Is it really true that as you get older the time seems to go by more quickly? Or, is it just that things are happening so fast, there never seems to be enough time to go around. I'd prefer to believe the latter statement but regardless of the reason, we are fast approaching winter and I don't know what happened to fall yet. It seems that along with the changing of the season, things are changing at the Cup too. (By the way, how do you like the newsletter's new face?)

In some past newsletters we have tried to keep you in touch with what is going on at the Cup although this has been difficult at times because we were not completely certain ourselves. We did mention that we knew that we have a full-time ministry and we were trying to operate it with part-time workers. One of our special prayers requests during the past few months has been for more laborers for the harvest. Well, praise the Lord and bless His Name! He's a prayer answering God! We also shared with you that Bill and Amy Brda had moved to Beloit to help in the ministry. God has a very definite call on Bill's life and a very special ministry for him. Bill shares our vision for The Overflowing Cup Ministry and has a sincere desire to see this community won for Christ and the Christians functioning as part of "the" body of Christ. (Please take time to read the article which he wrote on the front of this newsletter.)

We have asked Bill to work with us at the Cup and to help to further develop the ministry. Matt. 10:10 says that "the workman is worthy of his meat." Therefore, we have taken a giant step of faith and have committed to Bill a part-time salary, eventually working into full-time as the Lord leads.

Bill's responsibilities will include the coffee house activities, promotion and advertising, building a ministering staff and putting together the newsletter with some help from Amy in that department. Of course, we will still be around as advisors and we will all work together to improve and expand the ministry as the Lord directs. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.

*Dave and Pat*

Dave and Pat Fogderud, Directors

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### THE OVERFLOWING CUP

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