



Loving God With All You've Got

In my last article I talked about the first line of the *Shema*: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one” (Deuteronomy 6:4). This week we are going to move on to the second line of the *Shema*: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

The first word Jesus quoted is *ve'ahavta* – literally, “and you shall love.” This is understood to be a command, even though it sounds like a statement about the future. In one sense it is describing the future when we finally stand before Christ in our eternal home loving him. But this word is not just about loving God in the future. It is a command for today. Our love for God should be so great that we can't help but think about him. Later, in Deuteronomy 6:7, we read how this kind of love is so strong that you talk about it when sitting at home, when walking along the road, when laying down, and when awake.

Rabbi Jeffrey Spitzer writes about this kind of love for God: “When one falls in love, this is what it is like. The object of one's love is all there is; the love and the relationship create a complete unity of experience. A person in love wants to shout out ‘Do you hear! I am in love! This is the one!’ That's not too far from ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one!’ When one falls in love, one wants to learn everything about that person. The conversation can last all day and through the night.”

How true. I remember when I was smitten by my wife. When I took notice of her, I couldn't get her off my mind. I did crazy things to find ways to be with her, to talk to her, to get to know her better. This is the kind of love I want to have for God. This is more than that feeling we get after an emotional worship experience. Today, our whole relationship to God is often boiled down to that feeling you get when you worship God. “The Feeling” becomes the whole point of worship, and this can be dangerous. Do we just worship God for the feeling, and if we don't get the feeling, will we keep worshipping him?

Love for God is more than just a feeling. The Hebrew word for “love” is *ahavah*. *Ahavah* goes beyond emotions. Like *shema* (act on what you hear), it also describes actions associated with love. It can mean: “to act lovingly toward” or “to be loyal to.” This idea is seen in ancient treaties when you had an enemy king who signed a covenant where he pledged his “love” to the king to whom he was making peace. This meant he would act loyal towards this king. So, the word in this case does not have an emotional attachment like warm feelings or intimacy. So loving God doesn't mean we have passionate feelings about God, but rather a commitment of loyalty toward God.

The third part of the *shema*, “loving your neighbor,” reminds us that love involves action. Jesus commanded us to love our enemies. This describes our actions to our enemies rather than inner affections. You are not expected to have warm feelings with someone who hates you or is your enemy, but you are expected to treat them fairly, not take revenge, pray for them, and be kind no matter how unkind they are toward you. If you do all you can to act with love, your feelings likely will change over time. Let's grow in our love for God and neighbor.

June 2, 2019
Vol. 50 No. 22

Mark

Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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Arlington Friends
Arlington Church of Christ Youth Group

Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted
as we join together in worship.

Guest Information

- There is a **staffed nursery** available for children under age 2. There is also a **parent/child training room** at the rear of the auditorium.
- An optional **children's worship** is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. Please pick up your child after worship
- If you are visiting, **please complete a visitor card** so we have a record of your attendance.

Weekly Meeting Times

Sundays:
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Statistics

	weekly budget	\$4,062
	attendance	contribution
May 26	143	\$3,383

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God
Sunday, June 2, 2019

Elders

Mark Brackney Ph: 622-0376
Leland Price Ph: 925-4424
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713
Wayne Shannon Ph: 742-0517
Gregg Summers Ph: 223-4515

Deacons

Jay Estes - *Helping Hands Ministry*
Jason McDougal - *YPYF/Vacation Bible School*
Bud Norris - *Worship Participants*
Charles Owens - *Bldg & Grounds/Security/Treasurer*
Keith Tatum - *Education/Picture Board/Family Camp*
Ronnie Weldon - *Attendance/Communion Prep/Bldg*

Minister: Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

Secretaries: Becky Johnson Jennifer Tatum

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley - WEI
Tommy Drinnen - Hope Central



See our prayer request
insert for the most current
prayer list. Please contact
the office for updates,
changes, and/or deletions.

Please take a moment to pick
up a card (or two) to mail this
week from the **Caring Cards**
Ministry Table









Optional children's worship...

Is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning
worship. Children will be dismissed
before the sermon. Please
pick up your child
after worship



Coming Up...

- We rejoice as **Freddie Galbreath** was baptized into Christ last week.
- YPYF Bible Study**, today at 5 p.m. at the church building. 
- Yoga/Exercise class**, this Tues., June 4, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the fellowship hall, \$8 per week. 
- Ladies Prayer Group**, this Thurs., June 6, at 6:30 p.m.
- Deborah Reagan and Danny Davis wedding**, at Arlington, this Fri., June 7, 4 p.m. All are invited. We would like to do a money or gift card tree. Please see Kathy Campbell or Mark Brackney to help with this. There will be a cake and punch reception following. Please sign up if you plan to attend. 
- Small groups** Sun., June 9, 6 p.m. The group that meets at the church building will begin at 5 p.m. 
- Ladies brunch and prayer group**, Sat., June 15, 10:30 a.m.
- HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**, June 16.
- YPYF camping trip**, June 21-23, Frozen Head State Park. Let the McDougal's know if you plan to attend. 
- Celebration of the Arts**, Sunday, June 30, 5 p.m. If you have something to share, please let Alan Groves know. 

Family Matters

Sermon Topics Today

Sunday Morning:

Getting to Know Rabbi Jesus
Lesson #3 Loving God with all You've Got

Sunday Night:

No Assembly Tonight

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Jedidiah Cavin, Jonathan Cavin
Caleb Brackney, Pat Ramsey
Joe Croteau, David Giles
Bob DeWitt

Opening Prayer: Eli Griffin

Preside at Table: Jay Estes

Greeters: Tim & Paige Mallicoat

Nursery: M Norris & S Estes

Security: R Riggs & B Campbell



BIRTHDAYS

June 2 Ariana Shannon
June 5 Jonathan Cavin
June 6 A.V. DeBusk
June 6 Henry DeBusk
June 6 Kira McDougal



Happy
Birthday!!



Family News



We will assist in teaching
children Bible classes for
our Hope Kids today at
3:30 p.m. at the Central
Church of Christ. Please
let Mark or Tommy know if
you can help teach.

*Mark
your
calendar*



...for our Vacation Bible
School...



**Super Heroes of
the Bible**

June 16-19
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

SANCTUARY

Wednesday Night
June 12

We will share a meal at 6 p.m.
and then worship at 7 p.m.
Our Hope Central children and
parents are joining us.