

April 28, 2018

# Reflections

REFLECTIONS

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*“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”*

*1 John 3:18 (NASB)*

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## Feed the Need

I do what matters to me. I may say, for instance, that reading great books is important, but if I never sit down to read, it becomes clear that it is not as important to me as I say it is. It becomes something I merely talk about, while I spend my evenings watching "Cupcake Wars" instead of reading "War and Peace." When it comes to reading great books, somehow there's lots of talk, but not much action.

That same problem is present when living out our faith, too. We choose not to do what is important for building our faith and choose to do what tears it down. Paul wrote about this in Romans 7, "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do." John wrote about it, too, in 1 John 3:13-18.

In that passage John wrote that the world hates us just as Cain hated Abel. That is because the "mark" of the world is hatred. The "mark" of a believer, however, is love (see John 13:35). Christ demonstrated that love by dying for us on the cross. We are motivated by the love Christ has for us to care for others. If we do not do that, we can't really say that God's love is in us. Or, more bluntly, as we see in James 4:17, "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin." Talk is cheap. The apostle John is looking for less talk and more action, to coin a phrase. He wants Christians to not only say what they mean but do it as well.

As disciples of Jesus, caring for others can't merely be talk. It must lead to action, in response to Jesus' love for us. We love one another because Jesus loved us first, so much so that He laid down His life for us on the cross. There is no greater love.

When we have the world's goods and see our brother or sister in need and open our heart, the love of God abides in us, thus building our faith and the body of Christ. That is why we care for those around us. That is why we serve them. We do it because it is proof of our faith while proving what the will of God is, His good and perfect will.

That means we don't just talk about serving one another. We act; we do what we say is important to us. It may not matter much if I say I should read "War and Peace" but watch "Cupcake Wars" instead. But it matters a great deal if I say I should help someone who needs but never get off the couch.

That is why we must not just talk. We must also act. This week, as you go about your day, seek ways in which you can put your love in action, caring for one another as Christ cared for you, so that the love you have been shown through the Son might move you to show that same love to others.

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*Pray for our church plant  
in Clifton Park, NY.*

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## Pray With Us

**Dorothy Stall:** Please pray for David & Jennifer's son Levi as he may have a crack in his knee. He will have a cast on from foot to knee. Pray that it heals properly and pray that Jenny has the strength as Levi heals to keep him safe.

**Kevin Bonesteel:** His wife Jennifer flies home today from CA. Pray for safe travel.

**Bob Michaels:** Pray for Frank's sister Linda for relief from pain and God's peace and comfort.

**Matt Olson:** Paul and Gerri Greene are visiting Carl, Cindy and family in Hebron PA. Pray for a nice visit and safe travel home.

**Katie Greene:** She has injured her vocal cords. Her doctor has advised her to limit her talking and no singing. Pray that she does as the doctor has advised and is healed soon.

**Jon Gerstel:** Thankful for the good training he received in Binghamton, NY and safe travel home.

**Craig Mosher:** A co-worker Megan's son Judah injured his foot and is in a cast. Pray for his healing and keep Megan in prayer as he heals.

**Trish Gerstel:** Erika and Ryan have a new baby girl Paisley, who was delivered last night. Pray for Erika and Paisley to come home soon.

**Ed Stall:** Pray for all the pastor's attending the conference in Ashaway RI, that it is a productive gathering. Pray for Ed and Dorothy as the travel next week, for traveling mercies.

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**Berlin Youth Fellowship,**

*Monday, 6:30-8:00 pm  
(grades K-12)*

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## Weekly Events

**Women's Bible Study,** Evening study Tuesdays, 7 pm in the church library.  
Daytime study Wednesdays at 10 am in the church library.

**Bennington YF,** Wednesdays, 6 pm, at the Bennington Rec Center.

**Men's Bible Study,** Thursdays, 7 pm in the church library (next meeting 5/10).

## Upcoming Events

**April Operation Christmas Child Collection:** Toys for boys (small cars, balls, magnets, stickers, puzzles, marbles, yo-yos, and so on).

**Baby Quilt Squares:** We have two baby quilts to make for expectant mothers in our church. If you are interested in doing a square, let Dorothy Stall know.

**Serving our Neighbors:** We are hosting AP exams for the high school in May. We will need donations of bottled water, candy, and individual packs of tissue for the welcome table. If you are interested in supplying those things, sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.