

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

January 28, 2007

Love gives

by David King

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16).

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Eph. 5:25).

Notice a common theme in these verses? All three describe the love of God or Christ in providing for our salvation. But I'm drawn to the close connection between the words "love" and "gave." God "loved . . . gave"; Christ "loved . . . and gave"; Christ "loved . . . and gave." Who needs a lot of thick Bible word study books, when you have such a direct commentary embedded right in the divine text itself?

Love gives. In an age that is dominated by selfish consumerism, this simple definition is revolutionary in its implications. It sweeps away all the phony imitations of true love, and reduces the concept to a single word. Or rather, a single behavior. Love is not a feeling or an emotion. It is not a pit that you "fall" into. There are plenty of other words that are more suitable to describe those experiences. Rather, love is a commitment to reach out and do good to the object of its affection. The gift is not predicated on the worthiness of the recipient. No consideration is given to any self-

ish benefit in return. Instead, love is the giving of oneself to benefit another. It's that simple.

The meaning may be simple, but the implications are profound. Take marriage, for example. Why do a man and woman get married? Because they love each other, of course. But in too many cases, this "love" is really "lust" or "romance" or "fun" or some other shallow imitation based on what the two people "get" from the relationship. These ephemeral qualities eventually fade away — and then what? When either party no longer feels the same excitement that they once felt, the marriage is over. And no wonder. The marriage was not based on love ("giving"), but on "getting."

But suppose two people enter this relationship with a deeper motivation. Each is committed first and foremost to pleasing his or her mate. Each makes a conscious effort to really understand the likes and dislikes of the other, and works hard to adapt to the needs of the partner. This will require sacrifices — in some cases, a lot of sacrifices. As both parties continue to pour themselves into this enterprise, a remarkable thing will begin to happen: They will start to genuinely like each other. Why? Because they have learned the secret to a happy marriage, namely, **love gives**.

What works in marriage works in every other relationship in life. If we measure our relationships by what we get out of them, we will always end up disappointed. But if we will train ourselves to think in terms of what we can give, we will find a much deeper level of satisfaction — one that is rooted in love.