

Love's Greatest Happiness by John Piper

No one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.
(Ephesians 5:29–30)

Don't miss that last phrase: "because we are members of his body." And don't forget what Paul said two verses earlier, namely, that Christ gave himself for us "so that he might present the church to himself in splendor." So in two different ways, Paul makes plain that Christ pursued his joy in pursuing the holiness and beauty and happiness of his people.

The union between Christ and his bride is so close ("one flesh") that any good done to her is a good done to himself. Which means that the clear assertion of this text is that the Lord is moved to nourish, cherish, sanctify, and cleanse his bride because in this he finds his joy.

By some definitions, this cannot be love. Love, they say, must be free of self-interest — especially Christlike love, especially Calvary love. I have never

seen such a view of love made to square with this passage of Scripture.

Yet what Christ does for his bride, this text plainly calls love: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ *loved* the church . . ." (Ephesians 5:25). Why not let the text define love for us, instead of bringing our definition from ethics or philosophy? According to this text, love is the pursuit of Christ's joy in the holy joy of the beloved.

There is no way to exclude self-interest from love, for self-interest is not the same as selfishness. Selfishness seeks its own private happiness at the expense of others.

Christlike love seeks its happiness *in* the happiness of others — not at their expense. It will even suffer and die for the beloved in order that its joy might be made full in the life and purity of the beloved.

This is how Christ loved us, and this is how he calls us to love one another.

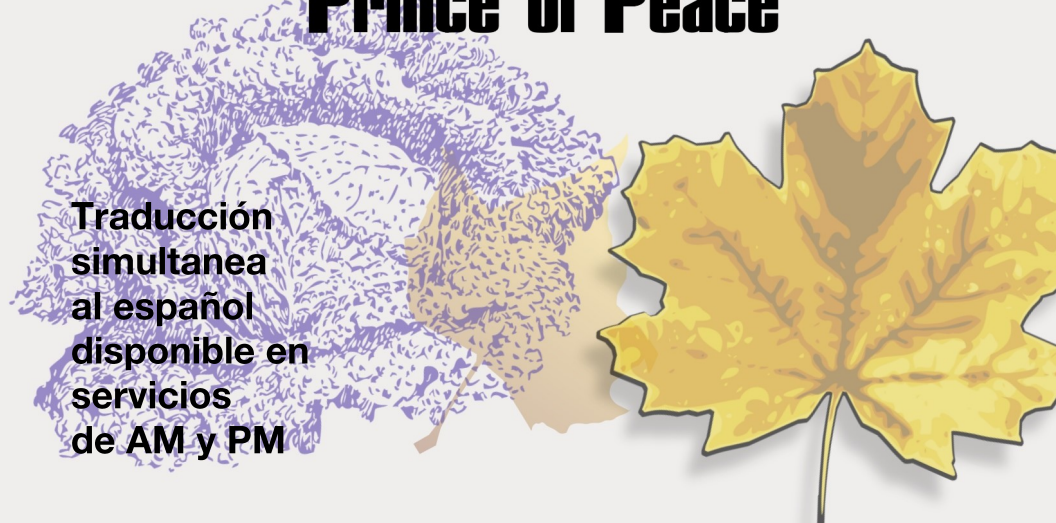


GRACE
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

October 22, 2017



Wonderful Counselor Mighty God Everlasting Father Prince of Peace

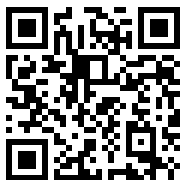


**Traducción
simultanea
al español
disponible en
servicios
de AM y PM**

Events

TODAY Hawfields 3 PM
Chorale Practice 7 PM
10/29 7th/8th grade and
VisionYouth Meetings
7 PM
11/1 Small Groups 7:15 PM
11/4 Senior Breakfast 9 AM
11/5 College & Career Lunch

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton	Michael Lopes

Service Times

— Sunday School 9:30 am
— Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
— Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
— Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249
www.grbc.net

Morning Worship

Call to Worship

Pastor Charles Fortner

Opening Hymn

God Undefeatable

1. Behold the King who conquered and overcame our sin.

Behold our glorious Victor whose mercy knows no end.

He is true, He is right, death is broken, He is alive.

(Chorus)

God undefeatable, Kingdom unshakeable; in majesty and power You reign.

Love undeniable, matchless and bountiful; to waken us to life You came. You came.

2. And now our way is certain, our souls in You secure through every pain and struggle Your victory endures.

For You are true, and You are right, death is broken, and You are alive.

God undefeatable, Kingdom unshakeable; in majesty and power You reign.

Love undeniable, matchless and bountiful; to waken us to life You came. You came.

(Bridge)

The love of God is greater than we dare to hope or dream.

The hold of God is stronger than we dare to hope or dream.

God undefeatable, Kingdom unshakeable; in majesty and power You reign.

Love undeniable, matchless and bountiful; to waken us to life You came. You came.

Text and Music: Aaron Ivey, Matt Carter and Ross King
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Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:14-30, page 830

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

#426 Thou Hidden Source of Calm

Preparatory

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;

When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.

I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;

For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

(Refrain) He will hold me fast. He will hold me fast.

For my Savior loves me so. He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;

Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.

He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;

Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

(Refrain)

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;

Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.

Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast;

'Til our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

(Refrain 2x)

Words: Ada Habershon (1861-1918) Music and additional words: Matt Merker , © 2013
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Sermon

Pastor Andy Dunkerton

Evening Worship

Call to Worship

Pastor Stephen Byrd

Opening Hymn

#89 Come Thou Almighty King

Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 21, page 273

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

In My Heart

1. In my heart there is a stirring, one that did not start with me;

A love to worship my Creator, to show His love for all to see.

(CHORUS) I will worship, I will honor, I will exalt the Lord above;

All my days I'll sing the praises of His great redeeming love.

2. In my heart there is a treason, one that poisons all my love.

Take my heart and consecrate it, wash it in Your cleansing flood.

(CHORUS)

3. Tie me to the Rock unchanging, tie me to His wondrous cross.

I'll fix my eyes upon the Savior, all other things I count as loss.

(CHORUS 2x)

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Preparatory

Be Unto Your Name

We are a moment, You are forever, Lord of the ages, God before time;

We are a vapor, You are eternal, Love everlasting, reigning on high.

(Chorus) Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, worthy is the Lamb who was slain;

Highest praises, honor and glory - be unto Your name, be unto Your name.

We are the broken, You are the healer, Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save;

You are the love song we'll sing forever, bowing before You, blessing Your name.

(Chorus) (Key change) (Chorus)

Text and Music: Lynn DeShazo and Gary Sadler © 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music Used by Permission CCLI # 1899094

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above I have a strong, a perfect plea,

a great High Priest whose name is "Love", who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart,

I know that while in heav'n He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,

no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,

upward I look and see Him there who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free.

For God, the Just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,

to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace.

One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;

my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God.

One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;

my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,

with Christ my Savior and my God.

Words: Charitie L. Bancroft Music: Vikki Cook © 1997 PDI Praise Used by Permission CCLI # 1899094

Sermon

Pastor Stu Johnston