

THE DOOR BELL

A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a small boy trying to reach the doorbell on a house across the street. The boy is very small and the doorbell is too high.



After watching the boy's effort for some time, the pastor walks across the street and rings the doorbell for the little boy. Kneeling down next to the child, expecting a 'thank you sir,' the pastor smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?"

The little boy is quick to reply, "WE RUN!"

COURTEOUSY TODAY

A man rose from his seat on a crowded city bus so that a lady standing nearby could sit down. She was so surprised, she fainted.



When she revived and sat down, she politely said, "Thank you, sir." That's when he fainted!

MY EXERCISE ROUTINE

I believe it's important to exercise. I begin each morning with my regular routine. Immediately on awaking, I sternly say to myself, "Ready now, Up. Down. Up. Down."



After two strenuous minutes, I take a deep breath, and tell myself, "Okay, now try the other eyelid!"

BEING PREPARED

A salesman was assigned to secure an important client but failed in his assignment. He texted the receptionist asking that she break the news to his boss. The note read, "Failed to secure client, prepare the boss."



He received a return text from the receptionist, "The boss is prepared; prepare yourself."

A SENIOR MOMENT

A man moved into a seniors' home and soon noticed a woman was constantly staring at him. One day on a bench outside, he found her alone and approached her, asking, "Ma'am, why have you been staring at me all the time?"



"You look just like my third husband," she replied.

"Well, how many times have you been married?" he asked.

She answered, "Twice."

TEASER: A bus driver passed four red lights and two stop signs and stopped at a fire hydrant. How many tickets did he get? A. None. He was walking.

First Baptist Church Strathroy

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

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July 2026



**"Blessed is the nation whose
God is the LORD!"**

(Psalm 33:12)

What's inside...

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- Teaser (flip for answer)



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Sundays 10:30 a.m. Services

[Sunday June 7th at 11 a.m.]

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "Suppose that I understand the Bible...am the greatest preacher who ever lived! The apostle Paul wrote that unless I have love, 'I am nothing'."

~ Billy Graham

God, You've Been Working

In the shadows of my memory,
I see You working behind the scenes.
Times when I might have battled alone,
You were there, keeping my heart in Your Word,
Defeating evil forces come to take me captive.

Hope that I thought had died
Has come to life again;
I see adventures waiting to be had,
Friendships to build and hearts to love,
Opportunities to use and truths to discover.

You've been working all along.
In the night while I slept,
You protected my soul.
During the day as I walked on Your path,
You guided my steps.
Thank You, God, for your constant presence.
I will trust You when I can't see clearly.
I will follow you when I don't know where the path will lead.
Keep me close to your heart.
I know you've been working all along.

~ Katy Kauffman

EMAILING

A little girl was watching her mother delete unwanted e-mail messages from her in-box.

"This reminds me of the Lord's prayer," the child said.

"What do you mean," her mother asked.

"Oh, you know, that part where it says, 'And deliver us from e-mail!'"



WATCH!

A young boy had been begging his father for a new watch. His father, getting frustrated, finally demanded, "I don't want to hear about you wanting a watch again. I don't want you to say the word watch, get it?"

At family devotions that night, the boy was to read Mark 13:37 but hesitated. His father encouraged him and so he read: "*And what I say to you, I say to all, Watch!*"



Something to Think About

"If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, who he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20).

Growing up I was always told never to say "can't" because it meant that I wasn't trying hard enough; I didn't believe enough in my ability. In our humanity we think that way. Perhaps you've been told, "It's Only Impossible If You Don't Try." At the turn of the 20th century, Journalist and writer, Claude M. Bristol, claimed, "If you believe you can do a thing, you can do it." Even the apostle Paul seems to suggest that we should trust God for the impossible. He wrote, "*I can do all things in Christ who gives me strength*" (Philippians 4:13). So, can you forgive me for wondering why we're told here in 1 John that we "*cannot love God*" unless we love our brothers and sisters?

God is love and He has chosen to pour His love out upon His creation through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. It's that love, given by God, that causes us to love. The beauty of that love releases us from the constant fear of what others really know about us; fear of never living up to expectations of our family, our neighbours, our co-workers. And it releases us from feeling like we have to impress others with our 'spirituality'. But while God's love delivers us from fear and unreasonable expectations, it doesn't remove us from responsible action in response to God's love.

Some years ago, the world was singing along with Dione Warwick, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of...no not just for some, but for everyone". Can you hear the tune in your head now? But what is the love the world so desperately needs?

God gives us His agape love – a selfless, unconditional, and sacrificial love that seeks the well-being of others above oneself - that transcends our differences with one another, but if one doesn't practice the life of agape

love as witnessed through our unconditional love for our brother who we can see, have we truly surrendered our hearts to God? Can we testify that we love God? In other words, the evidence is laid before us. If we fail the test of loving our visible brother or sister, we demonstrate that we're incapable of loving the God of love who is invisible. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, "Agape is disinterested love. Agape does not begin by discriminating between worthy and unworthy people, or any qualities people possess. It begins by loving others for their sakes. Therefore, agape makes no distinction between friend and enemy; it is directed toward both."

If what we claim is shown to be false by our actions, then we are called by God's Word, a liar! We're deceiving ourselves and trying to deceive others. It's like when Anania and Sapphira sold a piece of property and brought a portion of the proceeds to the church while purporting to have brought the entirety of the money from the sale for the church. (See Acts 5:1-11). Their crime was hypocrisy. That's what it is when we pretend that we love our brother while holding on to distrust, anger, even hatred for our brother.

When our hearts are filled with anything but love for those around us, how can we love God who created them? How can we love God who loves them?

It's important to note that loving our brother and sister doesn't mean we accept their behaviour when it diverges from God's will any more than our God accepts our misdeeds but cleanses us from our sin through confession in the name of Jesus Christ who bore our sins at Calvary's tree. The apostle John makes it clear that our obedience expresses itself in a single command: love for God and a

love for our neighbour are inseparable. If we love God, we can't refuse to love those whom God has created in His image. C.H. Dodd, a New Testament scholar and Protestant theologian of the mid-20th century wrote what remains true today: "Being the object of God's love, we are to love our neighbour in Him and Him in our neighbour". We're to demonstrate a present, active reality of love as our expression of the love shown to us and alive in us through God's love. That's what Jesus showed when He combined the command to "*love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself*" (Mark 12:30-31). Confidence in God's love shows up when our love is being perfected through loving each other.

Mark Your Calendar!

July 1st – CANADA DAY

July 5th – Communion Sunday

July 11th – Men's Breakfast (8:30 a.m.)

July 11th – Pastor & Deacons' BBQ (5 p.m.)

Wednesdays

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Prayer Room) 1:30 pm

Messages this month...



Biblical Truths We Stand On