

“STRUGGLES”

Mark 12:29-31 NLT

Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul**, all your **mind**, and all your **strength**.’-The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’-No other commandment is greater than these.”

John 13:34 NLT

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.”

Why do we still struggle with racism?

Why do so many Christians struggle with being judgmental?

Why do Christians struggle to get along? Prideful, self-centered, wall-building hearts



Picture of the Church Lady: Dana Carvey from SNL

“Struggles”

Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ’s Church of Marion County

October 8, 2017

Page 1 of 4 Pages

Love people with all your **heart**

Matthew 15:18 NLT

But the words you speak come from the heart--that's what defiles you.

James 3:8-10 NLT

...but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

See people as the **Lord** sees them

1 Samuel 16:7 NLT

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Be **honest** with yourself

1 John 4:19-21 NLT

We love each other because he loved us first. If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

You are a new **person**, an **ambassador** of God

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 NLT

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a **new person**. The old life is gone; a **new life** has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of **reconciling** people to him.

"Struggles"

Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ's Church of Marion County

October 8, 2017

Page 2 of 4 Pages

Change the way you **think**

Romans 12:2 NLT

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Dr. E. V. Hill

“We cannot legislate brotherhood. Don't put your trust in the left wing or the right wing when the bird is dead. The system that keeps us locked into our roles can only change because of people who are changed on the inside.”

Act **Justly**

Micah 6:8 NLT

...the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

To love is to be **vulnerable**

C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

Galatians 6:2 NLT

Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

God treats everyone on the **same basis** and so should you.

Galatians 5:6b NLT

What is important is faith expressing itself in love.

“Struggles”

Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ's Church of Marion County

October 8, 2017

Page 3 of 4 Pages

Acts 10:34-35 NLT

Then Peter replied, “I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right.

Galatians 3:28 NLT

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For **you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Love is how the world knows you are followers of Jesus.

John 13:35 NLT

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

“Struggles”

Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ’s Church of Marion County

October 8, 2017

Page 4 of 4 Pages