



*"...You shall love your neighbor as yourself'. Love does no harm to a neighbor...."* Romans 13:9-10

Hi Neighbor,

May I ask you to take just a few moments to read this brief message? Don't worry, I'm not selling anything or trying to get something from you. But I am very serious about my obligation to love you, as summarized in the Bible text written above. I realize that it is very easy to talk about loving our neighbors, but quite another thing to actually love them. Loving others, as we naturally love ourselves, is another way of saying, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'

Perhaps you will agree that this kind of love is very rare in our day. The evils of this generation, which include: social violence, racial hatred, domestic abuse, drug addiction, sexual immorality, and a multitude of other moral disorders, are all evidences that we are living in what the Bible describes as "PERILOUS TIMES."

*"But know this, that in the last days PERILOUS TIMES will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."* 2 Timothy 3:1-4

Our society is full of self-loving, money-loving, pleasure-loving people. I know—I used to be one of them. What about you? Come on, be honest and ask yourself, ‘Am I selfish, self-centered, or self-indulgent? Do I treat other people the way that I would like them to treat me? Do I love money more than I love God? Am I living just to please and satisfy myself?’

*“For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:3-7*

From these several verses in Titus chapter 3, we discover **THREE VITAL TRUTHS**.

**FIRST - BY NATURE, WE ARE ALL UNLOVING PEOPLE.** Our selfish, sinful nature is the real reason why we are sometimes irritable, hateful, and deceitful toward others. Self-promotion and self-satisfaction are more important to hateful people than showing respect, courtesy, and kindness to others. But by far the greatest evil of all is that we are hateful toward God. Those who are indifferent, disobedient, or rebellious with regard to God’s moral law or the requirements of His gospel, show by their attitudes and actions that they really hate God (Romans 1:28-32).

**SECOND - TRUE REALIZATION OF THE KINDNESS AND LOVE OF GOD ALWAYS HAS A PROFOUND EFFECT UPON A PERSON’S LIFE.** The love of God is much more than just a religious slogan, a spiritual feeling, or some kind of an emotional crutch. It is a life-changing act of God’s grace. God’s deposit of love is a work of the Holy Spirit by which He effectively makes hateful people become loving people! The Bible calls this moral change salvation (Romans 5:5-11; Ephesians 2:1-5). Salvation, which rescues sinners from their sin and reconciles them unto God, also produces a real change on the inside—in the heart. True salvation will cause you to hate your sin and love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. You will also love His Word, His law, and your neighbor as you have always loved yourself (Luke 10:27; 1 John 4:7-11).

**THIRD - GOD’S LOVE CAN ONLY BE REALIZED THROUGH THE MERITS AND MERCIES OF JESUS CHRIST.** You can never experience the life-changing effects of God’s love outside of Jesus Christ. All real blessings, benefits, and hope of eternal happiness are uniquely concentrated in the Lord Jesus (Matthew 3:17; John 17:26; Colossians 1:13-23). All who reject Jesus Christ are really rejecting God’s love (John 3:16,36). Only those who receive Christ are loved by God (John 14:21,23). My friend, do you know the love of God? Has the reality of your hateful, self-focused heart ever seriously troubled you? Has the love of God ever broken your heart and changed your life? Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ? If you do, you will love your neighbor as yourself. *“He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:8)*

Thank you very much for taking the time to read and consider this message. If you have any questions or if we can be of further help to you, please call or come by and see us at the **Emmanuel Baptist Church** in Verona.

## Emmanuel Baptist Church

60 Middle River Dr. Verona, VA 24482

**I-81... Exit 227 ... West onto Laurel Hill Rd. ... Left onto Rt. 11 (see map below)**

[www.ebc-verona.net](http://www.ebc-verona.net)

Church office: 540-248-1776

### Sunday Services

Adult & Children's Bible Classes ... 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship ... 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship ... 6:00 p.m.

