

November  
2021



# Central church of Christ

SERVING AS GOD'S HEART AND HANDS IN THIS COMMUNITY

## Mission Statement

To be God's heart and God's hands in this community and beyond.

## Vision Statement

As followers of Christ, our vision is to be a God-centered, relationship-driven, small-group church committed to equipping all people to live out the life of Christ.

## Contact Information

### Address

801 E. Airline  
Victoria, Tx 77901

### Phone

361-573-9133

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday  
8:30-5:00  
Friday  
8:30-12:00

## Love Your Enemies

By Orlan Sawey

Matthew 5:43-48

Some Christians find it hard to love the brethren and frequently say and do things that do not show a strong love for God's people. They can find all sorts of excuses for not showing love towards other Christians. Jesus frequently exhorted his disciples to brotherly love. But he went further than that; he exhorted them to love their enemies.

### "Hate Thine Enemy"

Some have concluded from the words of Jesus, rather hastily, that under the law of Moses God approved of their hating their enemies. But Jesus did not say that the law taught hatred of one's enemy. He said, "You have heard that it was said," not "God said." He told his listeners what the Jews, not what the law, said. A careful search of the Old Testament does not show an example of God's telling his people to hate anyone. Hating the enemy was evidently Jewish tradition. The Jews hated lots of people; the Gentiles, the Samaritans, etc. The law of the Lord Jesus Christ sought to bring God's people back to the proper attitudes towards others.

### "Love Your Enemies"

Jesus said, "Love your enemies." In Luke 5:27-28 he said, "But I say unto you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you." We are to show the basic Christian spirit, the spirit of love, as defined in 1 Cor. 13:4-7, to all men, including our enemies. The Lord died for us even when we were yet his enemies (Rom. 5:10). He prayed that God might forgive those who crucified him. And Paul tells us to do good unto our enemies (Rom. 12:20). In fact we are to do good to all men!

### "Pray for Them That Persecute You"

Jesus set us the example of praying for those who were putting him to death. In Acts 7 we see Stephen as he prayed to God he would not blame his murders for his own (Stephen's) death. When we are having difficulty with other people, we should pray to God about the matter. Even if the hearts of others are not changed, our praying just might change our own hearts!

Continued on the back ...

## Nursery

11/7 Nancy Schmidt & Patty Lowie  
 11/14 Charlie Cook & Natalie Cook  
 11/21 Stormii Stevens & Sarah Wideman  
 11/28 J.G. Musser & Glenda Musser

To help out with the nursery contact  
**Pam Taylor**  
**pam@churchofvictoria.com**

## Bible Hour

11/7 Sandy Walters & Mandy Vahrenkamp  
 11/14 Cook & Leslee Graham  
 11/21 P. Speath & Blythe Smith  
 11/28 C. Mealer & Carmen McGuire

To Volunteer for Bible hour contact  
**Mandy Vahrenkamp.**  
**mev031012@gmail.com**

## Up Coming Events

11/7 Time change  
 11/7 Congregational Meeting 6pm  
 11/8 Men's Breakfast 6:30am  
 11/8 Prime Timers Meeting 6pm  
 11/13 Ladies Bingo & Soup 12pm  
 11/17 Singing in Auditorium 6pm  
 11/24 No Evening Classes  
 11/25 - 11/26 Office Closed

## BIBLE BOWL

**Gospel of John 1-12**  
 January 15, 2022

Grades Kinder - 12th

Practice during  
 Bible Hour & Small group

### Sons of Our Father

In loving even our enemies we are following the example of God, our Father. He sent his son to die for those who were his enemies. He loved the whole world; he is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. And, Jesus says, God makes the sun to rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the just and the unjust. The goodness of God towards evil people is shown every day. Why shouldn't we, then, love our enemies? We are to do good, not evil for evil, but God's will is that we return good for evil and help our enemies, even when they might be seeking to destroy us.

### "Love Them That Love You"

Sometimes we feel that we are doing well just to love them who love us, and I'm afraid that we do not always do this. But Jesus says that there is no reward in loving those who love us! Even the publicans (taxpayers, whom the Jews dislike) loved them who returned that love. And, Jesus said, "If ye salute (say howdy to) your brethren only, do not the Gentiles (heathen) the same?" Sometimes we feel super-righteous when we show our brothers that we love them by being nice to them. Even the worst of sinners feels some kindness towards his brothers in the flesh! But the man of God shows his love even to his enemies. A Christian does not have any right to be mean and nasty to anyone, even those who are seeking to harm him. A kind and loving spirit should dominate our lives. After all, both the Lord God and his son have taught us to love our fellow men and have set us good examples of how we are to feel towards all men.