

First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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From the Pastor:

Brains, Hearts and Hands!

Mark 12:28-34

What does a well-rounded Christian look like? The summary of the commandments that Jesus gives to the teacher of the law in Mark's gospel account is quite sufficient to paint the picture we need.

God has made men with the capacity to love him. As Augustine famously wrote, "O Lord, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." We express our love to him in various ways. Theologians study about God and are amazed at his character, actions and promises that are written in the Word. Many Christians are emotional in how they love God and so they get with others who feel the same way and share their emotions together. Still others love God, but they don't say much or express it in outward emotions. Instead they show their affection for the Almighty in what they do. They serve others with their hands.

So, which of these ways are correct? Should we all strive to be great theologians, delving into the never exhaustible study of God and His ways? Maybe the emotional side is extra appealing to us – we could sing all day long about God and our relationship with Him. Or ought we serve with our hands more – feeding the poor, helping the fatherless, and tending to those in need?

God tells us to do all three! According to our Creator's design and the commands of Scripture, we should do all three – in a balanced and yet sincere manner. We must love God with our brains, our hearts, and our hands. He made us to do this otherwise he wouldn't have commanded us to do it!

Loving God with our brains is by far the most important. We ought to know Him well. And through Scripture we can. When the Bible is taught, prayed, sung, read, memorized, studied in depth, and talked about in various forums – we love God with our brains!

Loving God with our hearts should come from loving Him with our brain. What we know of Him ought to drive us to praise! Read the Psalms – most of them do this. Read Mary's Song in Luke 1, Miriam & Moses'

Song in Exodus 15, or many of Paul's doxologies (praises) in his epistles – they get right emotional. They express heartfelt emotions based on deep knowledge of God. And so we would do well to come to worship with a bit of knowledge! Our joy would be most full from the depth of knowing Him.

Loving God with our hands, just as with our hearts, ought to come from loving God with our brains. It is easy to see a need and to "do" it. But how much more could we love God if we used our hands based on deep knowledge of Him? We would know when to help a brother or when not to help – so as not to cripple him. Our heartstrings would be less pulled as we filtered out unnecessary "doing." Most importantly, we'd serve not to be seen serving, but to serve as our Lord has done so for us. We'd probably see more quiet service, fewer names on plaques, and the cross of Christ would be lifted high more often than the individual who "does."

Loving God in this well-rounded and biblical way is not easy! Some of us are great theologians – we don't get excited about much nor do we serve well. Others of us are great in the area of emotions but can't sit still long enough to think. I don't doubt that some of us who serve well with our hands would rather leave the books to others and the "feel good" to those God made for that! But we are called to do all three – starting with the brain, we use what we know to drive how we feel in our hearts and what it is our hands will do.

Love your God with your brain, your heart, and your hands. And in the words of Christ, "You will not be far from the kingdom of God."



THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will next be served this Sunday, August 2 during worship. Please prepare your hearts and minds for this important way in which the Lord graciously feeds his saints.

SUNDAY NIGHTS @ FIRST

Join us at 6 PM every Sunday Night beginning August 23. We will sing, pray and hear from God's Word.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women's Ministries Bible study will hold the last Sunday study on August 9 immediately after service. Lunch will be purchased from Honeybaked Hams for \$6.70 per person. *Please let Janice Richardson know ASAP if you want to participate in this meal* or you can bring your own lunch. See you August 9th! Two new Bible studies will be offered beginning in September.

Ladies Tea. All women ages 0 and up are invited to a tea served by the men of our church on Saturday, August 15, 2015 at 2pm.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS - Summer 2015

Church Membership Class taught by Pastor Crofts meets in the Fellowship Hall during the 9:45 Sunday School hour. This class will continue through Sunday, August 16. All are welcome to attend!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER NEEDS

- Pray for the unemployed to find work that uses their gifts.
- Ask that our caregivers may persevere in their labors of love.
- Lift up those who are chronically ill, that they may find grace in their hour of need.
- Pray for our aging members who experience various health-related trials.
- Ask that God would give parents faithfulness in raising their children.
- Remember our homebound members who are unable to enjoy our worship and fellowship. Marion Angel, Theo Baulding, Hope Gregory, Bill Huffman, Jim & June Little, Catherine Mangum, Pat Montgomery and Rucker Turner.
- Give thanks for those who serve our church in various ways.
- Ask God to help each of us to live holy lives before the watching world as a witness to Christ Jesus.

MISSIONARIES: Andy & Nannette Howard (Pakistan), Jeff & Lisa King (Spain), Ali & Tara Mitchell (ARP Connect), Jubilee Birthday Ladies – Sheila Osborne & Nannette Howard

OTHER MISSIONS: Jesse Wesselink (International Students, Inc), Siloam Missionary Homes, Alamance Pregnancy Center, Allied Churches, Meals on Wheels.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jo McKinnon	8/1
Roy Gage	8/4
Josh Limon	8/11
Catherine Mangum	8/13
Stephen Robinson	8/13
Lorene Childrey	8/14
Hannah Baird	8/19
Betty Mann	8/19
Carolyn Pulley	8/19
Deborah McGrogan	8/20
Lola Knox	8/21
Freeman Baulding	8/24
William Spencer	8/24
Kaye Murray	8/25
Erin Cobb	8/29
Doug Glass	8/29
Charles Seay	8/29
Foy Evans	8/30
Joyce Payne	8/31

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jay & Julie Snow	8/2
Kevin & Elizabeth Hutelmyer	8/9
Ed & Lynn Limon	8/10
Joe & Kaye Murray	8/11
Erik & Kelli Ensley	8/13
James & Carolyn Constable	8/23
Chip & Sarah Wright	8/24
Chris & Emily Hutelmyer	8/30

MINISTRY REMINDERS

Nursery:

Aug 2: Nicole Newton
Donna Wolff
Aug 9: Jessica Richardson
John Robinson

Counter:

Aug 2: Doug Glass
Aug 9: Gene Parks

Deacon Duty:

Aug 2: Doug Glass
Aug 9: Stephen Robinson

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