

Congregational Church of the Valley

your community Congregational Church



*"And above all these put on love,
which binds everything together
in perfect harmony."*

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER
2003

Colossians 3:14

Our Covenant

We covenant with the Lord and one with another and do acknowledge our faith in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior and take for our rule of life His own words: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength; and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."



OG MANDINO has written some worthwhile material ...that has to do, really, with success. Our FIRST relationship in our Christian Faith is to "Praise God." Closely aligned with our praise is our search for success ...that is, peace, happiness, fulfillment, purpose, meaning, etc.

My personal feeling is that our Christian Faith is both idealistic and practical ... and is really like "eating your cake and having it too". Our faith keeps us "reaching" but in its practice makes possible very practical and desirable results.

Og Mandino says that the only difference between those who have failed and those who have succeeded lies in the difference of their habits. Good habits are the key to all success. Bad habits are the unlocked door to failure. Thus the first law I will obey, which precedes all others is, "I will form good habits and become their slave."

The first Good Habit? "I WILL GREET THIS DAY WITH LOVE IN MY HEART!" And he goes on to say, "Muscle can split a shield and even destroy life, but only the unseen power of love can open the hearts of men and until I master this art I will remain no more than a peddler in the market place. I will make love my greatest weapon and none on whom I call can defend against its force!" (Sure 'nuf, it's just like Jesus said!)

How do I do this? (Practical) "Henceforth will I look on all things with love and I will be born again! I will laud my enemies and they will become my friends! I will encourage my friends and they will become my brothers!

When I am tempted to criticize I will bite my tongue; when I am moved to praise, I will shout it from the roofs! Is it not so that birds, the wind, the sea and all nature speaks with the music of praise for their Creator? Cannot I speak with the same music to His children? Henceforth will I remember this secret and it will change my life!"

He points out that everyone and everything in God's creation has a value and contribution. He says that when we meet anyone, and especially those with whom we may disagree, we should, "In silence and to myself, I will address him and say I Love You." He says, "Never will I allow my soul to become complacent and satisfied, rather I will feed it with meditation and prayer. Never will I allow my heart to become small and bitter."

"Henceforth I will love all mankind! I have no time for hate. If I have no other qualities I can succeed with love alone! Without it, though I possess all faith and knowledge and skills of the world ... but have not love ... I am nothing."

TOGETHER, LET'S MAKE A HABIT OF LOVE

-LJS