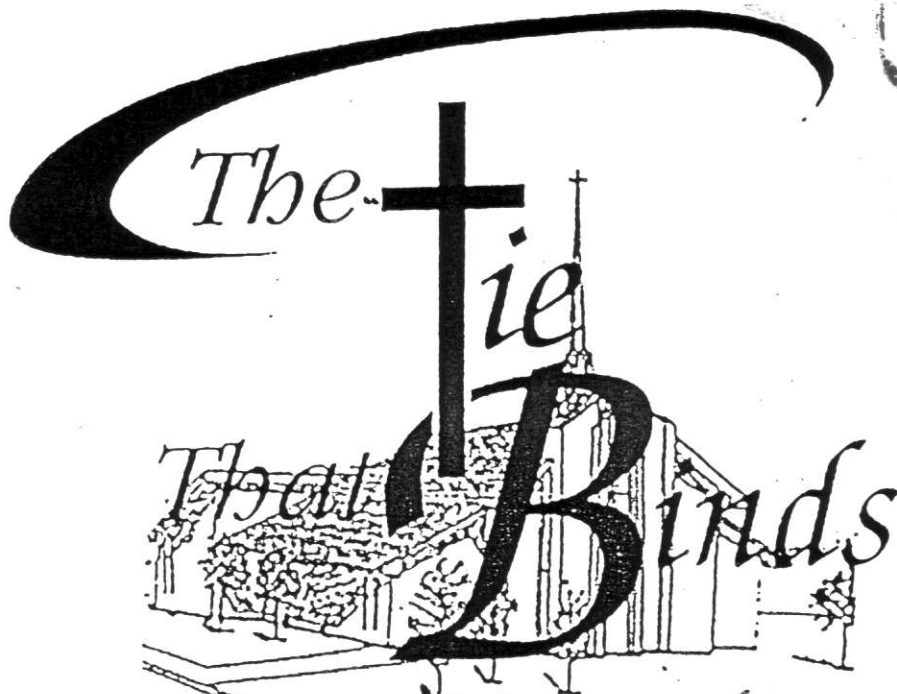


Congregational Church of the Valley

your community Congregational Church



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

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."



"I GIVE UP"!

yeah, that's what he said in
in a "ragged" tone. His con-
versation was something like

this, "I just can't love anymore. I've had it! That Gold-
en Rule is tarnished and rusted. It doesn't work. I try
to love and it's not returned. I give up!" WOW!

The reason for his exaggeration was that he had loved to be loved. Some-
one should have long since explained to him that that is not how Christ-
ian love works. Christian love is an experience of unspeakable joy!

What he was talking about was not "true love". True Love is original in
its Source. The origin is God -- coming to us through Christ! When we
love for personal satisfaction, the juice is flowing the wrong way. You
see, original love, as Jesus taught and lived it, has no selfishness in
it ... none at all!

Original love from the Lord frees us from the endless effort to please
people. When we know that HE is pleased with us in spite of what we've
been or done, that HE offers forgiveness and a million new beginnings, we
can get out of the sick syndrome of trying to please the people around us.
Love impels us to say and do the things people need, but not just what a
whim wants. People can play us like yo-yos in an endless up and down,
alternating emotional highs and lows, if we are dependent on their fluct-
uating emotions. Courageous loving is rooted in the constancy of Christ's
love. His love never fails ... because His love is rooted in God! Take a
good, long, studying look at the cross and you'll see what I mean!

Authentic love must be kept current. Current love is that which keeps "in
touch" -- "in contact". It's up-to-date! Talk to God regularly! Pray in
Jesus' Name daily! You might even keep a "prayer list" of the people for
whom you pray. Follow up with letters, phone calls, visits ... ah! but
the same fellows replies with "I'm too busy for all of that!" WELL!

-if we're too busy to care profoundly about our relationship to God and
Jesus Christ ... and too busy to keep in touch and care for and about the
people whom God has entrusted to be a part of our human family ... then,
perhaps we ARE too busy.

Life is too short -- to be too busy! You bet there's lots to do ... but,
Back to the Basics; children need that Christian Education at Church while
they are children -- we need the fellowship with other Christians when the
demands of the "world" are so unpredicable -- our families need to know
that family ties are special -- etc. Put your loving on the scale! Does it
balance with the Lord's love?

THE JOY OF MY TOMORROW WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON WHAT I DO ABOUT MY LOVE TODAY!

-LJS