

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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November 16, 2025

“If We Really Love, We Won’t Correct Error”

By Bruce Reeves

Correcting doctrinal error is unloving has become increasingly popular. Phrases like “Let’s just focus on loving Jesus” or “Doctrine divides, but love unites” are often heard in religious circles.

The assumption behind such sentiments is that identifying error is harsh, judgmental, or unkind — and therefore unloving. But is this truly what biblical love looks like?

Biblical Love Is Not Sentimental

The Bible teaches that love is essential, in fact, it is the greatest of all virtues (1 Corinthians 13:13). But biblical love is not mere sentimentality or passive niceness. It is grounded in truth.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:6 that *“love does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth.”* That means real love is not indifferent when error or false teaching threatens the spiritual health of the church. True love seeks the highest good of others and that includes warning them from deception.

Jesus and the Apostles Corrected Error

Jesus Himself, the embodiment of love, often corrected doctrinal error. He rebuked the Pharisees for their hypocrisy and false teaching (Matthew 23). He warned His followers against wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matthew 7:15). Was He being unloving? On the contrary, His love compelled Him to speak truth, even when it offended. Why is it that those who are questioning particular teachings are never considered as being sincerely concerned?

The apostles followed His example. Paul corrected Peter publicly when his actions distorted the gospel (Galatians 2:11–14). He warned against false teachers repeatedly in his letters (see 2 Timothy 4:3–4, Titus 1:10–11). Jude urged believers to *“contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints”* (Jude 3). These corrections were not mean-spirited; but they were direct and forthright in deep concern for the church’s faithfulness and health.

Doctrinal Error Harms People

False doctrine is not merely a matter of academic disagreement. It can lead people away from the true gospel, distort the character of God, and cause spiritual ruin. Consider how the early church dealt with errors in the New Testament - not with silence, but with strong, loving correction rooted in Scripture.

If a friend were drinking poison thinking it was medicine, would we say nothing because we “love” them too much to correct them? Of course not. Silence in the face of danger is not love — it’s negligence.

Unity Is Rooted in Truth

Finally, while love does promote unity, the unity of the church must be grounded in the truth of the gospel. Paul pleads for unity in the body of Christ — but always in connection with sound teaching (Ephesians 4:1–6, 1 Corinthians 1:10). Unity that ignores or downplays doctrinal truth is fragile and false.

Love Demands Truth

The idea that "if we really love, we won't correct doctrinal error" is not only unbiblical — it's dangerous. Real love tells the truth, even when it's hard. Real love protects the flock from harm. Real love seeks the good of the other, and sometimes that means saying, "I don't believe that is what the Bible teaches, let's study it further."

Let's be the kind of people who speak the truth in love, not shrinking back from correction, but not delighting in conflict either. Because in the end, love and truth are not enemies they are partners in the work of building up the body of Christ.

"A SERVANT OF THE LORD"

By Brad Phillips

In 2 Timothy 2:24-26, the apostle Paul penned some qualities that a servant of the Lord must possess. Knowing that, let's take a look at these must have qualities. Beginning with, a servant of the Lord...

Must Not Quarrel.

To "not quarrel" means, "do not cause a complaint or dispute." The wise man wrote, *"It is honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel"* (Proverbs 20:3). You see, as a servant of the Lord we should always seek to avoid contention, and we should always strive to be kind and peaceable to all (Ref. Romans 12:18; Ephesians 4:32).

Must Be Gentle To All.

Many characterize "gentleness" by being, "mild tempered." The apostle Paul compares the gentleness expressed by himself and others when they preached the gospel to those in Thessalonica, to how a nursing mother cherishes her own children (Ref. 1 Thessalonians 2:6-8).

Also, Jesus said, *"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls"* (Matthew 11:29). You see, Christ possessed a gentle attitude, and as His servants, we too need to do our best to imitate Him by likewise being gentle to all.

Must Be Able To Teach.

To "be able to teach" means, "the ability to apply the truth with clarity." Paul, advised Timothy to, *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15).

Friends, in order to be able to teach the truth with clarity to others, we must study God's word, so that we may know the truth and how to rightly divide it. So, let's diligently study God's word, and let's be able to teach it to others.

Must Be Patient.

To "be patient" is, "to be steadfast during times of opposition, longsuffering, or forbearing." Paul exhorted, *"warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all"* (1 Thessalonians 5:14). Now, although patience is not always easy to come by, we need to be mindful of this exhortation, and as a servant of the Lord, let's strive to be patient with all, just as the Lord is patient with us (Ref. 2 Peter 3:9).

Must Humbly Correct Those In Opposition.

How does one humbly correct those in opposition? Well, one does this by gently instructing those who oppose the truth. Notice what Paul instructed, *"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself least you also be tempted"* (Galatians 6:1).

You see, it is important to humbly and gently correct those in opposition, for Paul goes on to explain the importance of this to Timothy when he says, *"...if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil..."* (2 Timothy 2:25-26).

My beloved brethren, let us all strive to not quarrel, let's be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, and let's humbly correct those in opposition.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, George Hutto, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother, Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, and Cameron Hutchins.

Updates: Tim Harris Sr. is recovering from surgery, continued prayers.
Billy Grisham has left the hospital, and is now in Iuka for rehabilitation.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Dan Cottrell
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"Doing Just The Opposite"</i>

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:	Jerry Kennemur
Author:	1, 2, & 3 John
Starting Page & Question:	By Michael Hardin
	<i>Page 64, Question #19</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Paul Busby
Scripture Reading:	<i>1 Peter 5:7</i>
Song Leader:	Tim Harris Sr.
Lord's Supper:	Fred Johnson
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"Jesus Cares For Us"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 19, 2025

Auditorium Bible Class:	Russell Briggs
Workbook:	Great Bible Characters: Abraham
Author:	By Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #20, Question #9</i>
Invitation:	Dan Cottrell
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Closing Prayer:	Danny Sheffield



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“Doing Just The Opposite”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 21:28-30.**

I. People Who Did The Opposite.

- God Told Adam & Eve Not To Eat From The Tree Of Knowledge.
 - **Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3:6.**
 - Satan Said The Opposite- **Genesis 3:4.**
- God Told Israelites Not To Make Idols & Worship Them.
 - **Exodus 20:1-4—Deuteronomy 5:22.**
 - The People Did The Opposite In Making Golden Calf- **Exodus 32:1-8.**
- Elisha Tells Naaman To Dip Seven Times In Jordan To Be Healed.
 - **2 Kings 5:10-12.** He Thought Abanah & Pharpar Were Better Than Jordan.
- God Wanted His Watchmen To Warn The People Of Dangers.
 - **Isaiah 58:1.**
 - But They Were Silent- **Isaiah 56:10-11.**
- God Told Jonah To Preach To Ninevah.
 - **Jonah 1:1:1-2.**
 - But Jonah Went The Opposite Way- **Jonah 1:3.**

II. People Of Today Who Do The Opposite....

- Jesus Taught Men To Not Seek Glory From Men- **Matthew 23:5-12.**
 - Men Still Seek To Exalted By Titles & Religious Distinctions: “Reverend”, “Father”, “Arch-Bishop”, “Pope”, “Doctor So & So”, “Brother Big Preacher.”
- Paul Spoke Of Only One Body Of Christ- **Ephesians 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:25 (ESV).**
 - Men Speak Of Many Bodies Within The Body Of Christ- Denominationalism.
- Jesus Taught That God Seeks True Worshipers- **John 4:23-24.**
 - Many Look At Worship As Optional, Unnecessary, Or Unimportant- **Hebrews 10:25.**
- Jesus, Peter, & Paul All Taught That Baptism Is Necessary To Be Saved:
 - **Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16.**
 - Many Teach, *“Baptism Has Nothing To Do With Your Salvation.”*

III. Why Do People Want To Do The Opposite?

- The Devil Tempts Us Not To Do Right. **Genesis 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 3:5.**
- It May Not Be What Is Familiar To Us. **2 Kings 5:12.**
- It May Be Out Of Weakness Or Fear. **Exodus 32:21-24.**
- It Comes Into Conflict With What We Want To Do. **Jonah 1:3; 4:1-4.**

“Jesus Cares For You”

Lesson Text: **1 Peter 5:7.**

I. Jesus Showed He Cared While He Was Among Us.

- He Had Compassion On Those He Healed Of Their Infirmities:
 - **Mark 1:40-42; Matthew 14:14; Matthew 20:29-34.**
- He Had Compassion On The Multitudes Who Followed Him:
 - **Matthew 15:32-37.**
- He Had Compassion For The Demon Possessed- **Mark 5:14-20; 9:17-27.**
- He Had Compassion On Those Who Lost Loved Ones:
 - **Luke 7:11-16; John 11:32-36.**
- He Had Compassion For Those In Sin & Needing A Savior-
 - **Matthew 9:35-38; John 6:25-27; Matthew 11:28-30.**

II. Jesus Showed He Cared For Our Souls.

- Jesus Taught Us That Nothing Is More Valuable Than Our Soul:
 - **Matthew 16:24-26.**
- **Matthew 10:27-31.**
 - **Vs. 27-28**, Don't Fear, Because Men Can Only Kill The Body, Not The Soul!
 - **Vs. 29-31**, Jesus Conveyed His Care For Us Individually. **(See Luke 12:6).**
- Jesus Cared For The Spiritual Life Of His Disciples.
 - **Luke 22:31-32; John 17:14-17.**
- Jesus Did Everything For The Saving Of Mankind:
 - Jesus Left Heaven To Fulfill The Father's Will- **Hebrews 10:5-9; John 3:16.**
 - Jesus Showed Us The Father- **John 14:8-9.**
 - Jesus Gave Us The Perfect Example Of Obedience- **1 Peter 2:21; Luke 6:40.**
 - Jesus Demonstrated His Love By The Cross- **John 15:13; Matthew 26:28.**
 - Jesus Built The Church For The Saving Of Men's Souls- **Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:36-41.**

III. Jesus Still Cares For You!

- Jesus Is Still Saving Souls By His Blood- **Revelation 1:5; 1 John 1:7.**
- Jesus Is Still Making Intercession For You And I Today- **Hebrews 7:25.**
- Jesus Is Coming Back To Be With Him- **John 14:1-6.**