

# Love Letter

*"Jesus Wrote In The Sand"*

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AGAPE  
CHURCH OF CHRIST



## From The Pen Of A Free Man

### "Do I Have To Be There?"

Bro. G. A. Freeman

Regarding church attendance, this writer questions why any faithful child of God would ever ask such a question as "Do I have to be there?" in the first place. Unless there is a compelling reason that prohibits attendance, where else and with whom else would a child of God want to be than with the saints? (cf. Acts 2:42; Rom. 12:9-10; 15:30-32).

We have the obligation to submit ourselves to elders in such matters as attendance for the inspired writer of Heb. 13:17 says: "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

The elders are charged with the oversight of the local congregation. They have been given the responsibility to "feed the church of God" (Acts 20:28 KJV), and that "feeding" involves providing the necessary teaching to bring them to spiritual maturity (Eph. 4:11-13). Thus, when the elders set a day and a time for the church to assemble, the church should assemble in order to be spiritually fed.

From the well-known passage of Heb. 10:23-25 we read: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

Willful absence from any assembly of the congregation of which we are a member serves to discourage those who do attend. That is why the Hebrew writer said, "And let us consider one another to in order to stir up love and good works."

Let's ask ourselves, "How does my personal, willful absence from any service that I could have attended indicate that I am thinking about anyone but myself?" Having said that, how does our "staying home" help us get to heaven, which should be our primary goal? In what way does our staying home, when we honestly and truly could have been at the worship service, serve to "stimulate" our brothers and sisters in Christ "to love and good works"?

Phil. 2:3-8 exhorts us to do the following: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

After reading and studying the above passages in context, this writer cannot imagine any child of God asking, "Do I have to be there?" Dear fellow saint, can you imagine it?

Till The Last Amen

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### Important Dates

**\* Coming 9/1/2022 Weekly  
Zoom Question of Life,  
Faith, Religion**

## Plan Of Salvation

In order to obey the Gospel and become a Christian, a member of the Church of Christ, which is the Kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13) which is the body (Col. 1:18).

God has provided a scheme of redemption. A Plan of Salvation.

All who obey God, through Christ, must:

1. Hear the Gospel.  
Rom. 10:12-17;  
1 Cor. 15:1-4
2. Believe in Jesus, as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.  
Jn. 8:24
3. Repent of your Sins.  
Acts 2:38; 17:30,  
Lk. 13:3, 5.
4. Confess Faith In Christ. Rom. 10:9.
5. Be Baptized for the remission of sins.  
Mk. 16:16,  
Acts 2:38; 22:16
6. The Lord will add you to His Body, which is the church.  
Acts 2:47

This is the simple plan of salvation. There are biblical examples of this : Acts 8:26-39.

Dear student of the Bible, follow after the Lord in the same fashion , and you too can be saved.



# AGAPE Corners

(Evangelism Ministry)

## The Problem Of Absenteeism

Of the many different characteristics of the church there is that of being the body of Christ. Perhaps this metaphor is most illustrative in one of Paul's letters to Corinth. In 1 Cor. 12:14-16, Paul writes, "For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?" In verse 27 of the same chapter we read, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." We are all members of a great body—Christ's body—the church. Each one of us has a special role to play within the body of Christ. Every single one of us is important. Every single one of us is necessary.

The illustration Paul uses is this: think about the church as if it were your own personal body. Are there any parts of your body that are not necessary? One time I had an ingrown toenail on my big toe. I tried to fix the problem myself with a pocketknife but ended up making things worse. I finally decided that I needed to go to the doctor and have something done about it because it was starting to change colors. That doctor cut off half of my toenail just to fix that one little problem and it affected my entire body for several weeks. Who would have thought that half of a toenail was that important? When we look through the eyes of the Spirit, we see that every single member of the church is important and that for us to remove ourselves from that body causes harm to the body. Spiritually we may be no more than half a toenail, but when we leave the body, we hurt the entire body.

With these thoughts in mind, let us consider Heb. 10:24-26. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins."

# AGAPE Spot Light (Highlighting Our Members)



Our beloved Sister Yahaira Campble hails from Panama City, Panama. She has been faithfully attending the Agape congregation for 3 years, being drawn by the warmth and family atmosphere that is extended each and every Sunday.

Yahaira is motivated to persevere through all aspects of the living experience by clinging to the promise of one of her favorite passages of scripture in Phil. 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

At the end of the work day, you can easily find Sis. Campble resting, relaxing, and enjoying her home (as she loves being a home-body) and to let her explain it "getting some sleep is a blessed thing!"

Be careful not to sneak up on our good sister, because she has acquired her "right to carry concealed license" although she doesn't own a gun YET! Lol lol lol lol.

Yahaira wants to get back to traveling and visiting other countries that she's never been to.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, as we shine the spot light of Agape Love upon you this week.

Till the last amen.

***"I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry"***  
***Psa. 40:1***

# AGAPE Considerations (Activity Ministry)

## What Being A Christian Means



The disciples in Acts 11:26, were first called "Christians" at Antioch somewhere about A.D.

43. They were known to each other as, and were among themselves called, (1) brethren (Acts 15:1,23) (2) disciples (Acts 9:26); (3) believers (Acts 5:14); (4) saints (Rom. 8:27).

Let us ask ourselves this question: "What does being a Christian mean?" Being a Christian means that:

**We Are Saved From Sin** – God forgives our sins when we obey the gospel that Jesus and the apostles preached. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be

saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:15-16).

**We Have A New Relationship With God** – A Christian is referred to as God's child. Paul said, "we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:16-17)

**We Have A New Life** – Paul states, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

**We Are To Be Filled With Joy, Happiness and Peace** – Christians are happy because "the spirit of glory and of God rests upon us" (1 Pet. 4:14).

The last question we must ask is: Are you a Christian? Do you have the joy and hope found only in Jesus Christ? If not? Why not?

# AGAPE Salutations

*We, the Church of Christ, that meets at the Adorn Hall in Fresno, TX are delighted that you have received this particular edition of the "Love Letter"; a weekly publication which highlights important events and featured articles by our Minister and staff.*

*When you have the opportunity we would be elated to welcome you to any and all of our services at the congregation.*

*It is our great joy to proclaim the glad tidings of Christ, His Kingdom and His glorious gospel.*

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HERE

