

“Knowing Everything, Yet Being Nothing: The Dangers of a Theologically Driven Church”  
John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:3

*“In a church that treasures Biblical theology, there is a great sin that crouches at their door; the sin of being orthodox and exhausted, orthodox and cold, and orthodox and self-righteous. A true understanding of Biblical doctrine should always create a true Biblical culture. A true Biblical culture is seen in being both orthodox and exhilarated. The means to this goal is through Biblical love and Biblical encouragement expressed within and without the Christian community.”*

- Romans 12:9-10
  - Honoring someone is *“treating them with your deeds and your words as worthy of your service.”* We must desire to honor others over being honored.
  - God is not content with us treating each other *“decently”* while harboring a hard heart towards someone. He desires for us to have *“brotherly affection”* toward one another.
  - God will not command us to do something, in Christ, that He hasn’t provided the power for us to perform. He commands us to *“feel”* (Romans 12:9, 12, 15). We are responsible for our emotional responses (spontaneous as well).
- Ephesians 4:29 & 32
  - We are called to *“be kind.”* We are called to be kind to the ungrateful, the evil, and to be merciful (Luke 6:35-36). This kind of *“kindness”* can only take place by the power of God.
  - The goal of all Biblical knowledge should be to achieve a greater love for God and for others (Mark 12:30-31).
  - Someone who is *“tenderhearted”* is someone who shows compassion by meeting needs and being moved by others’ pain. *“Forgiveness”* is offered on the foundation of what Christ has done, not the worthiness of the participant.
- Philippians 2:3-5
  - Christ’s servanthood, humility, and obedience is offered to us as an example to imitate. *“Selfish ambition”* is personal gain and comfort regardless of how it affects others. *“Conceit”* is the idea of being so arrogant that I find no need for others’ contribution in my life; I’m self-sufficient. My *“interests”* never reign supreme to the *“interests”* of others. God’s will reigns supreme in my life.
- James 5:19-20
  - The *“risk”* of Christ like love puts us in a position to suffer rejection, hurt, and disappointment (Romans 8:17). But this risk has great reward (Luke 6:32-33). When we pour at our lives with Christ-like love we are taking a risk because they could receive or reject the gospel (1 John 2:19; James 5:19-20).
- Galatians 5:22-24 & 6:7-10
  - Our fleshly desires and passions resist the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. We are in a war for love and encouragement.
  - We reap what we sow; corruption or eternal life. We have been commanded to not grow weary, not to give up, and to do good to ALL.

**Worship:** Nothing But The Blood (Various Artists)                      God Omniscient, God All Knowing (Matt Boswell)  
He Will Hold Me Fast (Norton Hall Band)                      **Closing Song:** Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me (City Alight)

### **Announcements:**

\***Collecting Donations:** We are collecting donations for Vertical 196 for the month of December. Each week we will be collecting different items. For next week, December 20th, we will be collecting the following items: full size candy bars, hot chocolate (6 pack), hand/foot warmers, travel size hand sanitizers, chapstick, cough drops, and chewing gum. These items will be used as Christmas gifts for the guests of Vertical 196.

\***Christmas Eve Service:** We will be having our Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 24th, at 5:30pm! Please plan on joining us for that service and invite your friends and family to join us as well! \*\*There will be NO child care offered for this service!

\***Sound System Training:** Now that the new sound system has been purchased and is in use, we are going to start training others who have shown interest in serving the church body by running the sound system during the worship service. The sound system training will begin in January. If you have already let Pastor Jeremey know you are interested, he will contact you about when the training will start. If you haven't let Pastor Jeremey know you are interested in serving in this way, please do so as soon as possible!

\***Evangelism Class:** We will be starting the Evangelism class at the end of January. This class will be held on the last 2 Saturday evenings of the month (it is a 2 session class). We are putting a 10 person cap on the class. The next 10 person group will have their class in February. We will have a sign up list on the back table on Sunday, December 27th, for those who are interested in the class to sign up! If you have any questions, please see Pastor Jeremey.

\***Church Members Meeting:** We will be having a short members meeting on Sunday, December 27th, immediately following the service! If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for this short meeting. We will be voting on the 2021 church budget!