

Are you a Murderer?

“By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” I John 3:10,15.

The word hate seems such a strong and powerfully negative word, and such it can be, but maybe sometimes we characterize the word hate as something beyond what it can be defined as. We have been used to Bible teachings concerning hate and how we should not hate anyone, not even our enemies, rather that we should love them instead. We can find this command very hard to obey, but could it be true that we can be guilty of finding it hard to even love our blood-bought brothers with whom we share the most precious blessings and hopes?

We usually think of hate as an action taken toward someone, but it can also be a term used when we withhold an action that **should** be taken toward someone. For example, when we withhold discipline from our children, it can truly be said that we hate our children (Prov. 13:24). The same could be said concerning a situation among our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we withhold admonition or fail to rebuke persistent sin in our brother, we fail to love, and by definition, hate them because of our refusal to give them what they need. Also, do we not owe our brothers and sisters encouragement, words of appreciation, shared rejoicing, and consolation when needed (I Cor. 12:26)? The apostle John said that the one who hates his brother is in darkness even though he says he is in the Light (I Jn.2:9).

Even more distasteful is the word murderer. We tend to rank these people as some of the worst of sinners. How can John say that one who hates his brother is a murderer? If a parent refuses to give their child the requirements (food, clothing, love, guidance and discipline) for life and health, aren't they in a sense killing that child? In the same way, if by our attitude we create an atmosphere of dissension and enmity, thus stifling the growth and enthusiasm of a fellow brother in Christ, we too are guilty of killing our brother. Dissension, enmity, and a factious spirit are deeds of the flesh and will only lead to our own condemnation (Gal. 5:20). Am I a murderer?

By replacing pettiness with patience and grudges with gratefulness, we more closely resemble the church God would have us be. Why wouldn't we want to be “devoted to one another in brotherly love, giving preference to one another in honor (Rom. 12:10)? Paul stated that the signs of an immature and fleshly church was a spirit of strife and division (I Cor. 3:1-3). Why wouldn't we want to create an atmosphere of unity, “striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27)? The ideal congregation will esteem one another as more important than themselves, following Christ's example of humility (Phil 2). A root of bitterness can cause us to come short of the grace of God, causes trouble and leads to the defilement of others (Heb. 12:15).

Let's not undo the purifying effects of the blood of Christ by polluting the Church with the ways of the world. Let's make sure this body reflects the value of the price given to redeem her. Let's make sure we reciprocate the grace shown to us and “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, **just as God in Christ also has forgiven you**” (Eph. 4:32).

Tim Murray

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

Phone

(417) 451-2724

Email

info@neoshochurchofchrist.org

Website

www.neoshochurchofchrist.org



In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Kay Anderson, Travis Bell, Carol Bessman, Fred Bukowich, Kim Cable, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tammy Crawford, Mary Jane Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Sally Fry, Coral Haggard, Glen Honeycutt, Molly Jackson, Brylee King, Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Lyn Pendergraft, Mebyl Privett, Brandon Ross (Debi's grandson), Rylee Schroeder, Harold Speir, Stephanie Talley (Vera C's granddaughter) Edith Toney.

- Pete Griffin, father of Dorothy Wolgamott and Shana Griffin, reinjured is leg and is in rehab.
- Mebyl Privett is in rehab after surgery.
- Brylee King will have surgery on Wednesday.



every **ONE** counts!

Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. If you know someone who needs help, contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and "Flattened" Donuts is Tuesday at 7:00 in the activities center. This is the last one for the school year so be sure to join us for praise and pancakes. Invite a friend!



If you can't be here when we **worship**, visit our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel to join us live or to catch up on what you missed.

This year we will again have a **Wednesday Summer Series** with different speakers each week. The theme this summer is "*The Women Who Fear God.*" If you would like a copy of the topics, there is a copy in the foyer or on last week's bulletin

Today's Sermons



A.M: *You Must Be Born Again*
(John 3:1-8, Danny Boggs)

PM: *How Is All This Possible?*
(John 3:9-21, Danny Boggs)

New Devo for grades 7-12 and their families will be tonight after evening services at Caleb and Bethany Boggs'. Boys bring drinks and girls bring desserts.

H.O.P.E. Group, girls in grades 7-12, will meet Thursday at 6:30 at Carla Murray's home.

If you were in class this morning, you received a blue form that identifies your **personal interests**. If you weren't in class, copies are available in the foyer. The deacons try to make sure that everyone is as involved as possible. This tool will aid them as they attempt to do that. Please fill it out and leave it in one of the boxes in the foyer. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Make sure to register for **Green Valley Bible Camp**. Our week is June 12-18. The theme for this year is "The Happiest People in the World" Registration ends two weeks from today, May 29! Go to www.greenvalleybiblecamp.com. Don't miss out.

Writers, remember to turn in your assignments to Caleb or Danny by the end of the month.

There will be a **potluck baby shower** for Cheyenne and Ethan Murray on June 5 in the activities center. They are asking for diapers and wipes.

Mike and Anita Hinman have discounted their land line, please use their cell.

Please sign the card on the welcome desk for **Mani Pagidipalli's dad** who is celebrating 50 years of preaching.

Neosho Christian School is seeking a highly qualified, passionate teacher for Grades 1 and 2 for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are interested, please see Amanda Flint.

Please sign the **books** for the students who are **graduating**. They will be presented next Sunday to our high school and college graduates.

Congratulations to our college graduates!

- Kaed Thomas - Crowder College - AA General Studies
- Karson Thomas - Crowder College - AA General Studies
- Kelsi Matthews - Missouri State University - BS Elementary Education
- Madyson Reiboldt - Missouri State University - MS Education Administration

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

AM Opening Prayer: Elijah Boggs
AM Closing Prayer: Taylor Keith
Communion Prayers: Jim Friend
PM Opening Prayer: Peter Wald
PM Closing Prayer: Bob Murray

This Wednesday

Announcements: Tim Murray
Singing: Alec Fehring
Invitation: Zane Berner
Opening Prayer: Lowell McInturff
Closing Prayer: Don Deffenbaugh

RECORDS

	5-8-22	5-9-21
Bible Study	133	122
AM Worship	159	172
PM Worship	111	117
Wednesday	148	128
Contribution	\$11,589.73	\$9,132.53
Budget	\$8,250.00	\$8,000.00