PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



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"In Love"

Among many other objectives in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he wanted to make sure they were conscious of being in love. No, not the feeling we experience with grade school crushes or the energy we have for Hawaiian pizza. Rather, Paul was mindful of the "in love" that comes from God and the spiritual connections that come from it. In 6 different verses we encounter εν αγαπη translated to "in love."

God adopts His children in love (1:4,5) — We were not adopted as His children ought of pity. God knew we would need to be saved from our own mistakes, so He set a plan in motion. Paul says this took place "before the foundation of the world." God knew Eden would be defiled and we would be detached, but through His love we inherited an eternal kinship.

God's children are established in love (3:17) — Paul explains that by being "rooted" and grounded" in love, we can work together to know the love of Christ; something that surpasses man's mind! The clause of this is found in 3:18, "that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God." Daily, we must ask the question "how much of God do I want in my life?" It is by being found in this love that we are filled with God.

God's children deal with each other in love (4:2) — Families have issues and can often be divisive. We are all separate entities trying to resolve ourselves to one body. By being "in love" we can tolerate, endure, and bear with one another. We do this to maintain unity in the Spirit (4:3). If divisions and factions win, it's a clear indicator that one or both parties were far from love.

God's children speak truth in love (4:15) — We have done a fair job of addressing the inclusion of love when we talk with others. But let's not forget the prior verse to 15: "that we may not be tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrines." We need to hold on to the truth given by God, not man, and talk about it with others in love. Doing so, we grow in Christ.

God's children build up in love (4:16) — the apostle explains, "when everything is working properly" we are able to achieve progression as a church (and family). Consider everything else up to this point and what Paul is hammering to the readers. If we want to be a functional family, we must be found "in love" with God and each other.

God's children walk in love (5:2) — Paul unpacks the example of Jesus to drive this point home. He says, we are to walk in love "as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us." The Christian walk is not called a "Christian sit," "Christian watch," "Christian convenience." It's a walk and a way of life. Look at 5:1 for the affirmation of this command, "be imitators of God." When we walk in love, we follow the footsteps of Christ.

Tyler King

October 18, 2026

Sunday Morning
Opening Prayer Jeff Duncan
Closing Prayer Jim Warnock

Scripture Reading Jerry Reaves

Sunday Evening
Opening Prayer Payton Payne
Closing Prayer Joseph Tucker

Remember in prayer:

Tim Hester (surgery scheduled for Nov. 10) Rick Davison, Amanda Fletcher, Don Duncan, Chris Travis, Joan and Steve Henry, Ayla Alexander, Jill Spears, Wally Booker, Norene O'Kelly, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd

Brother's Keeper Group Two will meet after services tonight.

Brothers Keepers Group Three will meet next Sunday night.

Our **Fall Festival** will be November 7th at the residence of Justin and Meghan Glaze. Time and food list will be announced later.

Record for the week of October 11, 2026:

10 am	11 am	5 pm	Wed	Contribution
86	80	75	71	$3800.00

When Does One Become Saved?

One of the best ways to answer a question is to let the Bible answer it for us. That is one of the main reasons Paul wrote in Romans 15:4, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." We need to see when God saved others.

The first study is that of Noah. When did God save him? We see in Hebrews 11:7 that his faith in God saved him. "By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Note that the verse said "By faith Noah…. saved his household". Now was he saved when he first believed in God, or when he obeyed what God told him to do? This verse actually answers that question for us. God told Noah that He was going to destroy all flesh. He then gave him the instructions to build a great boat. It was because of his "reverent fear" that he built the ark. His salvation came after he did what God instructed.

Our second study is that of Israel and the tenth plague. They received instruction from Moses as to how God would save them from the destroyer. In Exodus 12:1-13 we see how specific these instructions were. The actions of Israel indicated that they believed this message for they followed God's instructions. My question is this, would an Israelite family have been saved if they simply said, "Because I believe what God said, He will save me?"

Now finally, God has told us that we are to believe Him if we want to be saved. Will we be saved if we say we believe God, but refuse to obey Him? Must obedience not come first? I believe God so I will repent of my sinfulness. (Acts 17:30). I believe in God so I will confess Jesus before others. (Matthew 10:32-33). I believe God so I will be baptized for the remission of my sins. (Acts 2:38). I believe God, so I will live faithfully until I die. (Revelation 2:10). Does that not harmonize with Noah and Israel? Let the Bible explain itself.

Bob Oliver

Elders:
Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

Deacons:
Justin Glaze: Technology and Emergency Response
Carter Logan: Fellowship Room/Youth Activities
Adam Morgan: Song Leading/Safety and Security
Jerry Reaves: Worship Assignments/Building and Grounds

Minister: Hugh Glaze
Song Leader: Adam Morgan