

- The church is meant to be a model of God's new community
- Christian love is the 2nd hallmark of genuine Christianity

1. A love we must have v7-11

- An old & new commandment – Lev 19:18 & John 13:34-35
- a) **This love is focused on our fellow Christians v9-11**
- 'brother' – 3 times. Jesus – "Love *one another*"
 - No point having love for world if things aren't right within
 - Think round your fellow Christians – who do you find difficult to love?
- b) **This love looks like Jesus v8**
- Jesus demonstrated how the old command should be kept
 - It is personal – that Christian and that one
 - It is active – not just an attitude, but action
– not just negatively (don't do), but positively (do do)
 - It is diverse – called to love those who are different from us
 - It is sacrificial – you are called to put yourself out for fellow Christians
- c) **This love is essential for salvation v9,11**
- Jesus sacrifice means that anything less than active sacrificial love, is 'hating'
 - 3 times John says haters are in darkness
- d) **This love is essential for growth v10**
- Lack of love causes us to stumble in our walk with God

2. A love we must avoid v15-17

- World = all that this world stands for
- v15-17 conclusion to first 2 hallmarks
- Wrong priorities and desires lead us into sin
- Wrong priorities and desires cause problems with other Christians
- What Christ has given and offers far outweighs all this world can

3. A certainty we can have v12-14

- 6 statements of certainty – all pointing us in a Godward direction
- Hallmarks aren't meant to make us totally inward looking
- If we spend all our time looking at the hallmarks we become discouraged
- Christianity is not about the performing of the duties, but a relationship with the Saviour
- Certainty comes from looking to Jesus (v12), from looking to God (v13), from God's word (v14b)

**Notices**

Sab	Evening service at Milford - I John 2:18-28	8pm
Tues	Book Study - Disciplines of a Godly Man/Woman - ch 7 Mark & Judith's	8pm
Sat 10th May	Family Day Conference Subject: Self worth, Identity and Stress in Childhood Speaker Brenda Kelso 10.30am-3pm Details on poster - application forms available	

Denomination News**Summer Camps**

Application forms are available and need to be in for 1st May.
Remember that the fellowship pays half the cost

Day Visitors to Castlewellan Conference

If you aren't able to go to the conference/holiday week in August you are welcome to go as a day visitor. Please fill in a forms if you intend to go as a day visitor. The speaker in Rev David McCullough and the topic is 'Considering Christ' in the Book of Hebrews.

Robert Robb - Marathon Man!

Rev Robert Robb, minister in Limavady church is planning to run 6 marathons in 6 days in the 6 counties of Northern Ireland in May. He is doing it to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society & Macmillan Cancer Support. Sponsorship forms are available.

Warren & Ruth Peel's book on Relationships

Rev Warren Peel and his wife Ruth's new book on relationships is available at €5. This is an expansion of their articles in the Messenger magazine.

Next Sabbath: I John 3

Opening Psalm: 74:1-6

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