

"WHERE'S THE LOVE?"

INTRODUCTION The sermon today will be on the short side. I told a friend earlier this week that it would be under ten minutes and he didn't believe that was possible. Give me a two minute warning by raising a hand.

As a matter of fact, it probably shouldn't even be called a sermon. It's more of a statement.

DEVELOPMENT That line from the Wendy commercial, "Where's the beef?" has caught on in a big way. Folks have taken it down a variety of directions, all to the joy of the sponsor whose sales have taken off. Ever since Presidential candidate, Walter Mondale, put the question to Senator Hart back there in early March in the Atlanta TV debate, we've been more sensitive to it.

Merv Griffin had the eighty year old woman, Clara, who does the Wendy "Where's the beef?" commercial on his program recently. And then Frank Perdue responded with a full page ad in the Times that said, "Who cares where the beef is". "Eat chicken". And then President Regan picked up on it this week saying that he doesn't care where the beef is...he's got the bread.

And now preachers are getting in to it. The preacher, it would seem, could use the slogan by altering it to read, "Where's the Love?"

The essence of the argument in the original commercial is that whatever else you may have in a hamburger, if you haven't got the beef, you have nothing! The size of the bun and the convenience of the store are irrelevant if there is no meat.

AND FOR US And for us. If there is no love in our churches, to what point is anything else? Folks may well take in our stained glass, our rich organ music, our beautiful sanctuary, our neat lawns and our well designed programs and be moved to ask, "Where's the love?"

Richard Niebuhr reminded us that the Church is here for the increase of love. And 2,000 years before Niebuhr wrote, a converted Jew by the name of Paul with an instinct for the vital in religion let it be known that without love we are nothing.

Hear his words once again,

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

And if there is no love in our homes and our families, to what point is anything else? Folks may well take in our material possessions - our cars, our coats, our stereos, and all the other things that we consider to be important to our way of life and be moved to ask, but "where's the love?"

Today, on Mother's Day, we remember once again where so much of the love in the home came from. We've so often taken it for granted...those lessons of love our mothers taught us and with such seeming ease. I'm sure we all have our own fond memories and experiences regarding the impact our mothers had on us. Always at the heart of their caring was love - a love that stood by us and believed in us. Yes, ...

There were hard years for her, years of struggle and self-sacrifice, but she was never bitter, cynical or disillusioned. In fact, she filled the house with song and laughter, made us all feel secure. Again, hear Paul's words:

"Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things."

CLOSING

"Where's the love?" It came to us in the person of Christ, long ago. As we try to follow Him and believe in Him, we find the love and package it up in our own lives.

It's a love that knows no limits, no boundaries and goes all the way.

Yes, without love - we are nothing!

Let's share the love we have and feel and experience together here...let's share it more openly with others as we go on from here. Let's begin in these moments by embracing our new friends here in the Church...those who will be joining this fellowship in the next few minutes. So, that when people are tempted to wonder and to say, "Hey, where's the love?" - we can say, I know ~~where~~ I can find some. Here, in this place and in this Church.

PRAYER

We thank Thee, O God, for those who have been channels of thy power and strength. As we turn to them and think about them this day, now release in us the faith and strength they once gave to others, that in days of stress and strain we may have in some small degree the love and life that they had in such abundance.

We ask this in the name of Him who is the Life and whose life is given for us all, Jesus Christ our Lord.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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TRANSFER OF CHURCH LETTER

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ASSOCIATE MEMBER

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Home Church: First United Methodist Church,
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* - Unable to be present, Sunday, May 13th, 1984

AN INVITATION

The coffee hour this morning is in honor of our new members. We invite you to come downstairs to the Russell Room following the service and introduce yourself to our newest members.

A NAME TAG

Two or three times across the year we celebrate a "Name Tag" Sunday, a Sunday when we encourage all of our members and friends to put on a name tag at the end of the service and to wear it during the coffee hour. The name tags will be distributed during the closing hymn along with a pen. Fill it out and wear it for the coffee hour.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome into the membership of our Church the following persons. We trust that this fellowship will be real blessing to them as it has been to us, and we welcome the contributions which they will make to the richness of our Christian life together.

"If your heart is as my heart is,
then come...give me your hand."

(John Wesley)

ANTHEM: "O Lord, Give Thy Holy Spirit"

"O Lord, give Thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, and lighten our understanding, that we may dwell in the fear of Thy Name, all the days of our life; that we may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

ANTHEM: "Cause Us, O Lord"

"Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down each night in peace and to awaken to renewed life and strength.

Lord, help us to order our lives by Thy council, lead us in the paths of righteousness. Lord, be Thou a shield about us, protect us, save our world from sorrow, from hate and from war. Curb Thou within us the will to do evil. Shelter us beneath the shadow of Thy wings.

Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down each night in peace, and to awaken to renewed life and strength. Amen. Amen. Amen."

ORGAN POSTLUDE

The organ postlude - a final offering of our praise to God - is played after the Benediction. Time permitting, we invite you to share in the beauty of it.

FOR THOSE WHO SING

New members are always welcome to audition to sing in the Choir. Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm in the Choir Room which is in the rear of the downstairs Russell Room.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Alaina Wils Goffman, infant daughter of Susan and Michael Goffman. Alaina was born on January 24th, 1984 at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

THE ENVELOPE IN THE PEW

On Mother's Day we receive a special offering for the Health Care Agencies of the New York Annual Conference. Your love gift may be shared in the envelope in the pew.

SECOND SUNDAY BRUNCH

Today - as every second Sunday of the month - the Second Sunday Brunch group will meet for brunch at a nearby restaurant. Norma D'Ambrosio has the details for it.

TUESDAY EVENING

The Tuesday evening study opportunity on the life of Jesus - begun in Lent - will continue through May 22nd. Those sharing in it are invited to meet at 6:30 pm in the third floor Fellowship Hall.

FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Finance Committee will meet this Thursday evening at 7 pm in the Russell Room.

A SATURDAY RUMMAGE SALE

Workers are needed for Saturday's Rummage Sale (May 19th). Be in touch with Jan Ernst if you can lend a hand.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
May 13, 1984

ORDER OF WORSHIP
11 A. M.

ORGAN "Clair de Lune" Karg-Elert

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN NO. 35 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (seated)

Help us, O Lord, who claim to be Christians. Teach us our responsibilities to You and to others in this world. Save us from loving religion instead of You. Take fire and burn away our hypocrisy. Take water and wash away the blood that we cause to be shed. Take sunlight and dry the tears of those we have hurt. Take love and plant it in our hearts, that peace and joy may be made real for all people everywhere. For we ask these things in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION - WORDS OF ASSURANCE - LORD'S PRAYER

GREETING TO THE CHILDREN

A MOTHER'S DAY GIFT FROM THE CHILDREN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

ANTHEM "O Lord, Give Thy Holy Spirit" Tallis

SCRIPTURE I Corinthians 13 Page 1000

PASTORAL PRAYER

PARISH CONCERNS

ANTHEM "Cause Us, O Lord" Nelson

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY

HYMN NO. 516 "Happy the Home When God Is There"

SERMON "Where's the Love?" Mr. Clarke

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

HYMN NO. 283 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

BENEDICTION

ORGAN "Now Thank We All Our God" Karg-Elert

*** Interval for Ushering

LAY READER

We welcome Diana Johnson to the Lectern today. A native of Baytown, Texas, a graduate of the University of Texas with a BS in Journalism, Diana is a free lance copy writer. Here in the church she serves on the Membership Committee and the coffee hour.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are in loving memory of Edith Wilson given by her daughter, Gwendolyn Cranston.

USHERS

The ushers today are Kenneth Barclay, Linda Burtch, Michael Hayes, Doug Heimbigner, Susan Langley, Lee Myers, Charles Sheffield and Ned Vail.

AN INVITATION

Coffee and tea will be served in the Russell Room following the service. Members and friends are invited to share in these moments of warmth made possible for us today by Anna Delson, Marie Birillo, Rita De Palma, Karen Kluge, Susan Langley, Gloria Percy and Jan Solow.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND NURSERY CARE

Sessions of Church School for children are offered Sunday mornings from eleven to twelve. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is also available on the fourth floor Day School room.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

An Adult Bible Class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall (third floor). Coffee is available and new friends are always welcome.

PARK AVENUE
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

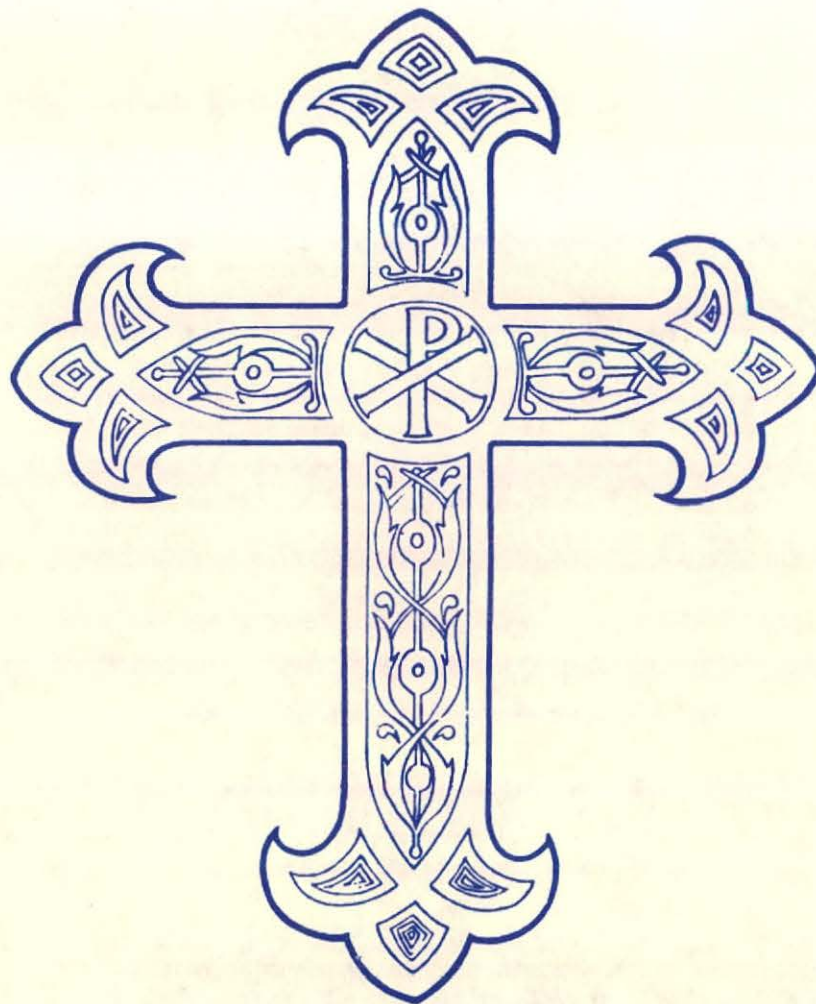
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