

Come Worship with us



Cherry Grove Baptist Church

The Centrality of Kindness

Every major religion places kindness at the center of its moral teaching. Jesus tells his disciples again and again how important it is for them to love one another, to treat strangers in a kindly manner, and even to love their enemies. Perhaps no one has sung the praises of love as eloquently as Paul in First Corinthians: “Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude.” (1 Cor. 13:4-5) Paul ends this beautiful elegy to love by telling us that “the greatest of these, faith, hope and love, is love.” There are similar statements in Buddhism: “Hatred cannot be overcome by hatred but only by love. This is an eternal law.” The Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhism’s spiritual leader has summed up his religion with this statement: “My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness.” Consider how often the Hebrew word “chesed,” variously translated as “steadfast love” or “loving kindness,” is used in the Old Testament to describe God’s relationship to his people, well over two-hundred times. Every major religion tells us that God is love and we are called upon to emulate God’s love always and everywhere. So, perhaps we should make kindness and mercy central to our lives and we will be sure that we are children of God.



Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

R.S.V. Romans 12:9-10

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