

COLLINSVILLE-TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 Troy Road, Collinsville, Illinois 62234

Focus on God's Word Find the Truth Follow the Lord



*Sunday Worship Assembly 9:30 AM
Sunday Bible Classes (All Ages) 11:00 AM
Wednesday Adult Bible Class 1:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes (All Ages) 7:00 PM*



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The Correspondent

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Unconditional Love

Clifton Angel

In the Greek, it is the word *agape*, which has nearly become an English word in the world of Biblical studies. The best definition from my finite mind for "unconditional love" is: doing or saying something beneficial for another, expecting nothing in return. It is sacrificial. A better definition is seen by its use in the New Testament. Let's consider also a passage from the Old Testament where the word is absent, but its meaning is exemplified.

First, unconditional love is the essence of God. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16). "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). "God is love" (1 John 4:8, 16).

Second, it is expressed by true disciples of Jesus. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matt 5:44).

Third, it is expected of Christian husbands. "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them" (Col 3:19). "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph 5:25).

Fourth, unconditional love was exemplified in the days of Daniel. Three Hebrew youths, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (more commonly known by their Babylonian names: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) were put in roles of leadership in Babylon following Daniel's interpretation of the king's dream (Daniel 2–3). King Nebuchadnezzar erected a statue of gold and made a decree for all to worship the statue (Daniel 3). The three Hebrew youths refused to do so, and so Nebuchadnezzar threatened them with death in a fiery furnace if they continued. Listen to their response to the king: "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Daniel 3:17–18). What a tremendous love and faith these three men had for God. They had faith that he could and would save them from the fiery furnace; however, they loved God so much that they would still be faithful to Him, even if He did not save them from the fiery furnace. Do we love God that much?

He loves us that much, and more. So much more that He sent His only Son to save the world, knowing most of the world would reject Him. The sacrifice has been made. Will we love Him? Certainly, "He first loved us" (1 John 4:19)!

- Clifton Angel preaches for the Coldwater Church of Christ in Coldwater, MS
- <https://bulletingoldextra.blogspot.com/2026/07/unconditional-love.html>

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth. 1 Thessalonians 1:8

ENCOURAGEMENT

- I. Encouraging Others through Worship and Prayer
- II. Encouraging Others through Serving
- III. Encouraging Others through Words
- IV. Encouraging Others through Helping with their Needs
- V. Encouraging Others during Temptation/Sin

Worship Service

Announcements

Song: 132 Does Jesus Care?

Song: **Prayer**

Song: 484 O Sacred Head

Lord's Supper and Contribution

Song: 191 God Will Take Care of You

Song: 220 He Lives

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 3:12-13

Sermon

Song: 382 Kneel at the Cross

Song: 138 Farther Along (Vs. 3)

Prayer

Hebrews 3:12-13

Y V D H W T B W H P G I I O T
A E D R D T E G I N I O T E B
D D A E R C U R I E I R U U E
O E E G F O S V E R O R Y D D
T C W O R N I N R H G O N B I
L E O H I L S A X T U L T U R
A I T H I I T E I E V I L L E
H T E E G L E S T R D T H G H
A F E O N D E T W B R B R H T
R U D N I H R Y E E I H F Y O
D L B R T A B U F V A C E T N
E N E E R U E E N S U A R E A
N E W O A T I I T E H L L E D
E S A N P L S E E R H L N L A
D S R D E I X I N T A E G A O
E E E B D E W I N E R D A E U
T T N E E T E S L D W G E R O
E U E T T T R T N D G H D E T

BEWARE
BRETHREN
LEST
YOU
EVIL
HEART
UNBELIEF
DEPARTING
LIVING
GOD
EXHORT
ANOTHER
WHILE
CALLED
TODAY
HARDENED
THROUGH
DECEITFULNESS
SIN

Hebrews 3:12-13 (NKJV)

- ¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;
- ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called **"Today,"** lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Why Worship?

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. John 4:23