



February 2009
From the Desk of
Rev. Chuck
Unity Church of Bakersfield
1619 E Street, Bakersfield CA
93301
www.ucob.org
Church: 661-327-8614 or
Home Office: 661-391-0302

Dear Friends,

The month of February is the *love* month! I noticed that as soon as the New Year celebrations were coming to a close the stores were already getting ready for Valentine's Day.

Since recorded time much has been written about how we have engaged each other in the ritual of expressing love. It is interesting to note that when love is present in our relationships everything is right with the world. So why can't we make the activity of expressing love the most important activity in our lives?

I have a theory. The type of love that we learn to express is based on conditions, thus our love and the expression of it in our lives is conditional love.

This is the kind of love the writers of the Old Testament knew. When we read the accounts of God interacting with the Hebrews we see that as long as they "loved God" they were protected. As soon as they turned their love to something else they were punished. The message: Love me or I'll punish you is conditional love.

How many times have we felt this kind of love being expressed in our own lives? "I'll love you if..." How many of us have withheld our love because of certain activities or experiences we deemed important to us, so we punish those who violated our rules.

Conditional love is a learned activity. We are not born with it. We are born with unconditional love. I have never known a baby or small child to actively stop loving. It is only when the child has learned from us that love can be used to manipulate people, do they use it as a condition to get what they want.

Until humanity can break away from the judgmental, punitive, conditional concept of the Old Testament God we will never truly understand and know the God of Jesus.

To Jesus, God was an all loving, all forgiving Father whom he called, Abba. His mission was to teach the Hebrew people a whole new way of loving and creating relationships that would promote peace. When we read about his activities in the New Testament we see that everything he did was to demonstrate the unconditional love of God toward humanity.

Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity had this to say about God's love: *Love, in Divine Mind, is the idea of universal unity. In expression, love is the power that joins and binds in divine harmony the universe and everything in it* (Dynamics for Living / pg 236).

I believe the Master Teacher gave us the "secret" to peace, order, harmony, and prosperity in our lives. It is a three-fold activity: Love God, love self, love your neighbor as yourself. When we are able to do this we will have no problem following his final commandment of: *love one another as I have loved you* (John 15:12).

Jesus loved unconditionally— he taught it, he lived it. If we believe that he was one of God's messengers here on earth then we must believe that God's love is also unconditional.

I would like to invite you to take what love means to you into your meditation time and let God speak to you. Think only of how you may be able to express more of the unconditional aspects of love in your life. Pray: *Divine love, manifest in me now. I am open and reception to Your will for me. Spirit leads, I follow. Thank You, God.*

Remember: unconditional love does not come from things, it can only come from the heart of hearts, God's light in you. After all...*You are the light of the world.* (Matt 5:14), so go out and share it!

New Members Join Unity Church

With love in our hearts and joy in our voices we welcome: **Jon Casida, Suzy Eves, Joyce Kennedy, Alan Jordan, Allan Komarek, Shawna Robertson, Raymond Rothlisberger, and Angela Taylor** as voting members of Unity Church of Bakersfield. We love you, we bless you, and we appreciate you!

Annual Meeting 2nd Notice

The annual meeting of Unity Center Bakersfield will be held immediately following services on **Sunday, February 8th**. A luncheon will be served in the fellowship room right after the meeting.

All are welcome to attend as we elect board members and chart our course for Unity in the community.