



**Johnna Beth Sims**  
Birthday 07/25/2020

**John Cunningham**  
Birthday 07/26/2020

**John & Gracelyn Cunningham**  
Anniversary 07/26/2020

**Olivia Kent**  
Birthday 07/26/2020

**Ron Kochik**  
Birthday 07/29/2020

**Song Practice on Zoom Tues-  
day evening at 7**



## Contributions

Week 07/18/2020

\$ 5,321

We are working on a way to do that online (who would have ever thought), but in the mean- time, those who give by check could simply mail it to Kerry Lashlee 9748 Bent Brook Dr Montgomery, AL 36117

In the beginning, this emergency looked short term and we just thought that any and all could give it all after the emergency. Now that it looks much longer, it becomes important that we each continue to contribute weekly or monthly as we have, if we are able, because bills still have to be paid and evangelists need to continue to be supported. We will let you know when we have any better solution to the problem.



WWW.PERRYHILLCHURCH.ORG

JULY 19, 2020

# Slander, Love, Strife, and Peace

Slander is a sin ([Matt 15:19](#)) and is listed in the company of bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and malice—all of which are to be put away by the child of God ([Eph 4:31](#); cf. [Col 3:8](#)). It unnecessarily injures another’s name. This is true with respect to slandering others, but especially so when we rail against God. Satan’s slander of God is among the first recorded evils (Gen 3). Slander has always been a problem, but modern vehicles like social media can be a breeding ground for it. Think of the number of unverified reports that are put out there. “Fake news,” as it has come to be called, makes its immediate rounds with seemingly little attempt at verification. We may easily fall prey to this as a headline alone might pique our interest, so we pass it along without realizing we may be spreading bad rumor, gossip, and slander. While we would condemn slander, we may be participating in the very thing we say we hate. We must be careful.

Discussions can be rife with bad faith arguments, name-calling, and questioning one another’s integrity. We fall into this abyss of never-ending blaming, shaming, and hurtful insulting. The keyboard is as deadly as the tongue. What will I be saying and typing today? Are we watching?

The answer is love, and love is a not a side-issue, to be swept under some rug of easy-peasy feel-goodism that stands opposed to real, heavy-hitting doctrine. Love is central to everything God desires from us. If the Lord said that loving God and loving others are the two greatest of the all the commands, then we must not relegate love to some third-string optional idea that can be left scorched in the wake of a self-idolatrous version of standing for the faith? Whose faith are we standing for?

This is why it is imperative that we self-evaluate, taking a long, hard look inside of our own hearts to see whether or not our faith is undergirded by an attitude of love for others—fervent, earnest love from a pure heart, as Peter put it ([1 Pet 1:22](#)). Continued on page 3



## Meeting News from the Elders

A few words to explain what is happening as we move toward a return of services in the building.

We have had successful LiveStream services at the building since June 28. Since new virus infections are still rising at an alarming rate, we started with just worship leaders and their families. For those in the auditorium, it worked well and everyone stayed safe. For those at home and on ZOOM WITH Live Stream it was the best of both worlds, because at home we had the feel of "being there" with Bill at the pulpit and the "be with everyone" feel we get with ZOOM. On ZOOM, all members can talk and visit with each other after service. Those attending at the building cannot linger afterwards.

We are still in a very dangerous time. The rate of infections is still increasing. In no way do we want you to feel compelled to physically attend simply because limited services are reopening at the building.

We are strongly recommending that the over 65 age group that is most vulnerable should wait at least a month before considering attendance in the building. Others with physical conditions that increase their vulnerability should also delay in-building attendance.

If you choose to attend the service in the auditorium, it will be with strict use of masks and social distancing. Children will not be allowed to play and run as before and must be with parents at all times. All should plan for bathroom use at home because use may be limited in the building. Zoom services will continue in parallel to Live Streaming from the building for the foreseeable future and you will still be able to view the entire service and participate from home..

The key decision point for most of us will be the status of the pandemic. We just had the first of our number affected adversely by the virus when a member's daughter, Lauren, was tested positive for COVID-19. Lauren is recovering and thankfully her family tested negative. The rate of increase in Alabama for new infections is still five times what it was when we began total lock down. (Over 15,000 new cases in Alabama in last 14 days and over 1,700 in one day last week.)

### REMEMBER THESE IN PRAYER

**Rebecca Teague** sister Shirley Broken leg

**Brad Wright** Severe stroke. Living in Texas

**Johnnie Mae White** Anemia

**Patricia Lang** recovering well

**June Brokson** Pat Hart's sister..severe infection

**Cooper Terry** grandson of Brenda Domingus /sister Linda cancer

**Mike Hunt** ... Into a new routine

**Helen Stewart** Some progress

Love is what makes faith practical, active, and attended by mercy. It must be founded upon truth ([Eph 4:15](#)). And speaking truth must never be devoid of love. Slander opposes both truth and love, so I must seek to uphold truth and I must seek to love others fervently and purely.

### Strife and Peace

Slander works together with strife. Strife (discord, contention) is a work of the flesh, and those engaged in it will NOT inherit the kingdom of God ([Gal 5:19-21](#)). It is just as bad as any sexual immorality, idolatry, and drunkenness; it is seen tied to jealousy and envy and is in the company of murder, deceit, and maliciousness. Strife is evil and ought not to be found among God's people.

You can see the term used in [Rom 1:29](#); [13:13](#); [1 Cor 1:11](#); [3:3](#); [2 Cor 12:20](#); [Gal 5:20](#); [Phil 1:15](#); [1 Tim 6:4](#); [Titus 3:9](#).

If we will speak out against the other sins listed in these works of the flesh, then we must be speaking out against strife and discord among brethren. It has no place in God's kingdom.

On the other hand, Christians are told to pursue peace with others, especially their own brothers and sisters in Christ (see [1 Peter 3:8-12](#); [2 Tim 2:22](#); [Rom 14:19](#)). As with love, seeking peace is not an optional matter for those who wish to glorify God. If we are not pursuing peace, then we are being anti-Christ. How else shall we see it? Not pursuing peace is a repudiation of the "gospel of peace" ([Eph 6:15](#)).

Yet how do we at the same time pursue peace while we are latching onto and defending worldly and material matters and causes that manifestly divide? How do we pursue peace while we mock and deride the very ones with whom we are to be at peace?

"But peace is a two-way street," we think. Yes, but "so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" ([Rom 12:18](#)). A good marriage is a two-way street, but we cannot tell a married couple that it is a 50/50 proposition—that if one person only gives 50, then the other only giving 50 is okay. It is not okay. We must all give 100, or, as my football coach would often say, 110!

For Christians, relationships are to be all in, giving 100 percent of the effort, even if the other person is not trying. If others do not want peace, that is on them: "so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." God gave His all even when we were His enemies. What shall we do?

Love one another. Reject slander and strife, and "let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding" ([Rom 14:19](#)). Doy Moyer