

# COGA NEWS



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Wealth is Loving
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



# WEALTH IS LOVING

*Bishop Cecil Reid*

**You may think that we're going to get all gooey here when we talk about loving. We are not. Loving's not gooey. *Loving is hard work.***

Loving is not just a feeling - something we "fall into." Loving is a choice. We must choose - sometimes against seemingly impossible odds, with enormous evidence to the contrary - to love whatever we encounter.

### **First, we must learn to love ourselves.**

Heavens, is that difficult? Only we know all the nasty things we've done and all the wicked things we've thought. Only we know how often we've failed and how often we've done the right appearing thing for the wrong reason. And knowing all this, we are asked to love ourselves?



Yes. We wish we knew an alternative, but we don't. Loving ourselves is the only real foundation we've found for loving everyone and everything else in the world.

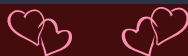
The good news, of course, is that we also know all the goodness within us; all the kind thoughts we've thought, all the compassionate things we've done, all the caring feelings we've had.



Like life, we are collections of both good and bad. Like happiness, loving is choosing to focus on the good. From the challenge of loving ourselves, it's relatively easy to move on to the challenge of loving everyone and everything else.

Do we have to love everyone and everything? No, only what's in front of us. If there's something we don't love, and can't seem to find anything positive about it to focus on, we can simply move away from it and place

*Continue on page 2*



ourselves with something we can love. If we are thinking about something, and can't find anything to love about it, we can think about something else, something we can love

Why do we practice loving? Is it for the person or thing we love? Oh, a little. Is it for ourselves? Absolutely. As La Rochefoucauld put it, "The pleasure of love is in loving; we are happier in the passion we feel than in what we inspire." And as another poet wrote, "The love I give you is secondhand. I feel it first." Or, another: "What do I get from loving you? Loving. You."

Our loving, of course, is not just for people. "I love it, I love it; and who shall dare," wrote Eliza Cook, "To chide me for loving that old armchair?" Loving things feels good, and there are a great many things these days in need of our loving. The planet Earth, for example.

"Thank God," wrote Thoreau, "men cannot fly, and lay waste the sky as well as the earth."

The loving we are talking about expects nothing in return. The joy of loving is a reward in itself. "To love for the sake of being loved is human," said Alphonse de Lamartine, "but to love for the sake of loving is angelic."

So, be angelic. Sure it's hard work. The habit of loving only a few selected things and people is strong, but habits can be broken, and new behaviors learned. Let them say of you, as John Dryden said in 1680, "Large was his wealth, but larger was his heart."

***More important, learn to say that of yourself long before anyone writes your epitaph.***

*Bishop Cecil O. Reid*

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.**

**Psalm 107**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

**John 15:13**

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**Psalm 86:15**

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

**Proverbs 8:17**

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

**John 13:35**

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**Isaiah 54:10**

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

**Romans 5:8**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Matthew 19:19**

**honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"**

**Psalm 63:3**

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.



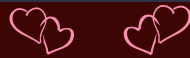
**Romans 12:10**

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

**Proverbs 3:3**

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

*Continue on page 3*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

- 27th > So. District: Black History Program
- 29th > 5th - NW/SE Saturday District Meeting

### MARCH

- So. District: 23rd – 25th > Spring Revival Speaker: Bishop Greg Booker



Find more information on [www.cogainc.org](http://www.cogainc.org)



## A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- "A happy house is one in which each spouse grants the possibility that the other may be right, though neither believes it."
- "Insomnia sharpens your math skills because you spend all night calculating how much sleep you'll get if you're able to 'fall asleep right now.'"
- "You know you've reached middle age when you're cautioned to slow down by your doctor, instead of by the police."—Joan Rivers
- "It is not love that makes a relationship complicated; it's the people in it who do."
- I could agree with you, but then we'd both be wrong.
- "Valentine's Day is when a lot of married men are reminded what a poor shot Cupid really is." I pray you're not one of them.

# FEBRUARY is

