



# The Castro Valley Connection

## Castro Valley Church of the Nazarene

July 20, 2016

### "Love the Sinner, DESPISE the sin!"

#### In this Newsletter—

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#### Encouragement from Pastor Steve

What a beautiful day! I hope and pray that you are encouraged and blessed. Don't forget... you are loved!

I am always so thankful when the Lord speaks to me through His Word. And in preparation for this coming Sunday, He truly is ready to speak.

In so many conversations I hear believers say that the culture around us is like a foreign land. This condition can make us feel a bit uncomfortable in a place where sin is celebrated and it seems as if we can no longer call sin, sin. "Love the sinner, hate the sin" is a

phrase we hear from time to time. The phrase originates from the early church father Augustine. A letter he wrote contains the phrase which translated means "With love for

hating the sin from love's (agape) perspective.

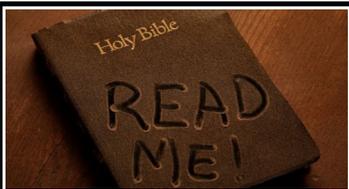
I have always been intrigued by Psalm 103 when it says, "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He

harbor His anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities." The reality of this verse is that God sees the value of His creation, the worth of every man, woman, boy and girl. And that value He sees cannot be overstated. And so, God's character dictates that His



humankind and hatred of sins." We likely agree with it. However, we might ask, "How do we really accomplish this?" It can be an excuse to judge.

But, if we can truly understand the character of God, we might begin to understand the complexities of loving the sinner and



#### READ MORE ABOUT

#### GOD'S LOVE

Psalm 103: 8-9

2 Peter 3:9

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

John 3:16-17

2 Corinthians 3:18

**YOUR OBSTACLE MAY BE HIGH, BUT OUR GOD IS THE MOST HIGH.**

## Prayer Concerns:



Prayer is the foundation of power in the life of the Christian. Please keep the following items on your prayer list this week:

### Emma Davis

Dick & Ester's granddaughter, Emma, was rushed to the hospital this morning very sick. The family has been struggling with sickness. Pray for their healing and strength.

### Stella Riojas' Son

Stella has asked us to continue to pray for her son Jerry (Tina Frey's brother) battling cancer. The news is that the cancer has spread to his brain. Keep praying for healing.

### Jack Stephano

Jack will be seeing specialists at Stanford medical center for his ongoing back pain.

### Don Cote's Sister—Donna

Donna has been transferred to a wound care facility for another 1 1/2 weeks. Still on antibiotics, she is making progress.

### Elizabeth Lopez

Elizabeth has a great attitude but is still struggling, not eating and she is sleeping often

## Roaring Lamb's Schedule

### July

24 Jen Copp  
31 Debbie & Paul Olsen

### August

7 Debbie Hartshorn  
14 Zola Schantin  
21 Rick & Linda Cole  
28 Patty Copp

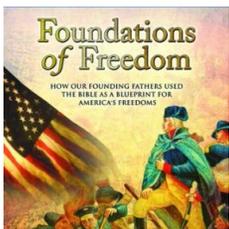
### Prayer Team:

For critical items of prayer contact Pastor Steve or Bonnie Bovee to activate the prayer team.

Pray  
without  
ceasing!

“What we need in today's church are broken hearts. Then and only then will we find passionate prayer!”

## New Sunday School Series:



Foundations of Freedom: How the Founding Fathers Used the Bible as a Blueprint for Freedom.

From the formation of American law and the judicial system to biblically-based economics, science, government, and more, we'll discover how our Founding Fathers used the Bible as a blueprint for America's freedoms

**Begins August 14**

## Camp and Conferences Yard Sale

This Saturday

8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**If you wish to donate items for sale, contact the Church office today.**



August 5-7, *Every Man's Battle* will be held in Sacramento.

*Every Man's Battle* has helped over 10,000 men engage in the battle to get their sexual integrity back. It's a **NO-SHAME** zone for men to begin regaining the life God has called them to.

**Don't miss your chance to reclaim your integrity!**

# Announcements and Calendar Updates



## July

25-29, Middle School Camp

## Advanced Dates

Back to Church Sunday—September 11

Men’s Horseshoe Tournament and Fellowship Barbecue—September 17

Men’s Bible Study—September 22

Grief Support—September 21

**Sunday, October 23, 10:30 a.m.**

## **Castro Valley Church of the Nazarene 90th Anniversary Celebration**

*Spiritual Renewal Services, Special Guests,  
Celebration Banquet, Gifts and Awards, and a Vision for the future  
of this great Church!*



**Mark it on your calendar,  
get the word out and join us!!!**

## **Celebrations**

### July Birthdays

- 20 Patty Copp
- 21 Kevin Copp
- 22 Daniel Carlos
- 24 Desiree Frey
- 27 Mary Cedarholm

### August Birthdays

- 1 Marilyn Cole
- 1 John Porter
- 3 Bonnie Bovee
- 4 Jack Stephano
- 7 Judy Carlos
- 18 Patrick Alvarez

### August Anniversaries

- 18 Dave & Debbie Hartshorn
- 21 Bob & Lielan Walter
- 24 Bob & Valerie Bloemink

If we missed your special day, let us know so we can update our records. Thank you.

The Castro Valley  
Connection

Visit us on  
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Castro Valley Church of the Nazarene  
A Welcoming, Affirming Congregation, Dedicated to Becoming a House of  
Prayer, a Place of Worship and a Vehicle for the Healing of the Entire  
Person

[www.castrovalleynaz.org](http://www.castrovalleynaz.org)

## Sunday Worship Prep

### Practical Implications of Divine Love "Loving the Sinner."

*John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*

## Pastor's Message: Loving the Sinner. DESPISING the sin!!!

primary purpose is to redeem, not to condemn!!! In fact, the Bible says it very clearly multiple times over, especially in John 3:17, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." So, without argument, God loves everyone, including the sinner. And, so should we.

But God also **hates** sin! I can't say this strong enough!!! The reason is important: Because sin breaks God's heart! It messes up His plan, His intention and His purpose. God hates sin because it destroys His creation, it separates us from Him. Its

power is destructive, because it perverts not only the behavior but the one who exhibits the behavior.



God hates sin because it enslaves us and will eventually destroy us.

God hates sin because it messes up His perfect image in us; sin makes us look less and less like Him when we are to be continually transformed into Christ's image.

## Sin messes everything up!

...and it breaks His heart!!! In the days of Noah the scripture states that God's heart was "deeply troubled." (Genesis 6:6, NIV) Literally translated it says, "His heart was injured." God's heart was injured over the sin of His creation.

I think the message is clear: loving the sinner is a matter of the heart—a heart moved with grace filled empathy and a heart broken with compassion.

Join us on Sunday as I look more into this vital subject.

The Castro Valley Connection is published monthly. For announcements, articles and items of interest email the church office at [cvoffice@castrovalleynaz.org](mailto:cvoffice@castrovalleynaz.org).