



Lewiston Church of Christ

December 17, 2017

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

More Blessed to Give

Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Wed Bible Study 7:00 P

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

Randy Thornton: 208-758-3289

DEACONS

Mark Whittaker-Outreach

Tom Hill-Finance

Rick Richardson-Education

AREAS OF SERVICE

Joe & Carrie Bieren – Fellowship

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Cody & Doyle Dawes- Grounds

Ken Vogtman – Building

Custodian – Jennifer Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

Secretary – Renee' Hill

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The question, “how much am I loved?”, monopolized my mind when I was young. When I saw a standing ovation, I wondered if I would ever get one. When my dating life was dry, I worried about my lack of lovability. If Facebook had been around then, I probably would have fussed too much on how many “likes” or “loves” I got from day to day.

Somewhere along the line, I grew up. Here's how:

1. I became more deeply assured of God's love for me than before.
2. I am passionately content (finally) with a wife who loves me.
3. I finally figured out that my focus needed to be more on what I can control than what I could not. I can control my love for others far better than their love for me.

Popular culture did not help. As far back as 1900, an America author named L. Frank Baum appealed to this childish mindset in his children's book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. He wrote: “A heart is not judged by how much you love; but by how much you are loved by others.” This twisted line made it into the 1939 movie as well.

This is exactly wrong. Here are three points of wisdom to consider:

1. Leave the task of judging hearts to God.
2. You are probably loved more than you know, but you might be overly focused on the wrong people and looking for the wrong kind of evidence.
3. Focusing more on how much you are loved than on loving others is a recipe for unhappiness in the long run. Jesus got it right: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35).

The New Testament Greek term for *repentance* is “*metanoia*” (literally, to change your mindset). A good start is to change our focus from receiving love to giving it.