

Compassion (via pancakes or the cross?)



A six-year-old boy decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the kitchen counter, he pulled open the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor. He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor (which by now had a few tracks left by his pet kitten). Picture it. This little guy was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be very special for Mom and Dad, but it was getting messy. He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all in the oven or on the stove (he didn't know how the stove worked!). Suddenly, he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky.

That's when he saw Dad standing in the kitchen! Big crocodile tears welled up in his eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him for a few moments... then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him close and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process. A simple act of kindness can make a tremendous impact on a person's life.



Is that how God deals with us? Does He "see" us? "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (**Romans 5:8**).

We try to do something good, but it turns into a mess. Maybe our marriage gets all sticky or we insult a friend or we can't stand our job or our health goes sour. Sometimes we're overwhelmed with tears because we can't think of anything else to do! It seems that IS when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us.

Consider the cross of Christ. "Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's" (**2 Corinthians 10:7**). How do we "see" others?

Just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying to "make pancakes." Why? Because sooner or later we'll get something right, and then they'll be glad we tried. "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (**James 1:2-3**).



Please smile for the camera!
Ready for a photo update...

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: 2nd Sunday
Friday Bible Study: 7—8PM. Consider your Bible study (**2 Timothy 2:15**)
Men's Meeting: after PM service (**3/1**)
3rd Thursday Night Singing: had 33 singers here from 7—8PM. God bless our praise to the Lord! Next meeting **3/19**
NMCCH: collecting aluminum foil and kitchen trash bags (pick up **4/3**).
Please look at the bulletin board for future events being posted—thank you!