



The Mark of a True Believer

1 John 4:7-11 (NKJV)

7Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Introduction

Apostle John wrote these three letters before he was exiled to the island of Patmos. He wrote about the vital aspects of faith to distinguish truth from error. He emphasized the basics of faith so that believers can be confident in their faith. More importantly, he mentioned repeatedly about the importance of love.

Love is so important that John wanted to make sure that we really understand it, that it is not an optional virtue but the distinguishing mark of a true believer in the world.

v.8 - He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Let us examine our lives by this standard.

A. Love is the result of being born of God (the source is God).

v.7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

When the life of God was imparted to us in the new birth, it manifests itself in love. God is love (since God's very nature is love). If we are children of God, then we will be like our Father.

Our culture uses the word "love" in many ways: "I love pizza!" "I love the mountains!" "I love my children." We often think that love is a sentimental feeling, but the Biblical definition is far from it based on several similar texts (John 3:16, 13:34; Ephesians 5:2, 25; 1 John 4:9-10). Biblical love is a self-sacrificing, caring commitment that shows itself in seeking the highest good of the one loved.

Biblical love is a commitment, and thus it may be commanded. But it is not a commitment without feeling; it involves delight, not just duty. Also, this caring commitment is not just an attitude, but an action. It shows itself in deeds. Those deeds often require self-sacrifice, seen supremely in Jesus' going to the cross. The goal of this commitment is the highest good of the one loved, which is that the person be saved and be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

B. Love was manifested to us through the death of Jesus Christ (the standard is God).

v.9-10 - 9In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Christianity is not

about a person deciding to stop sinning or doing morally acceptable practices. It is not about religion and devotion. Christianity is about God imparting new life to those who are dead in trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:1

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

Many would misunderstand that to be alive in Christ, one needs holiness and righteousness. Many focused on themselves (trying to change themselves for the better).

Ephesians 2:5

even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Remember, the initiative was totally with God. He did not wait until we made some promise of changing or until we cried out for help.

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Rev. Dr. James C. Sy
Administrative Pastor



UCACOA 1ST COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

The Fulfillment of GOD'S VISION



Many years ago, the ministry of United Christian Academy College of Asia (UCACOA) was merely just a vision, a dream God placed in the heart of His servant Rev. Dr. William Sy. But the Good Lord, who gave him the vision and mission of the church, is ever-faithful and true. What He promised He will do, He fulfills. And now, we are witnesses of the realization of the God-given vision of building a strong academic institute all for God's glory!

UCACOA made history when it held its 1st Commencement Exercises at the auditorium last May 23, Friday. Twenty-five students successfully completed the course Bachelor of Technical-Vocational Teacher Education (BTVTEd) and reaped the fruits of their labor.

Truly, UCACOA will continue to develop its own teacher-workers and educators that will serve both the academic institution and the other ministries of the Lord.

Opening Ceremony

Everybody is in awe when UCACOA Founder and Chairman Rev. Dr. William Sy gave his message before the graduates, retelling the school's humble beginnings to its continuous growth until it becomes a fulfilled vision of the Lord.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES & SCHOOL OFFICIALS



DEAN & FACULTY MEMBERS

Procession

The commencement exercises officially began with the procession of the board of trustees, school officials, and the faculty members of UCACOA, as well as the marching of the graduates, making their official entrance.



John 16:13
(NKJV)

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Awarding

With utmost gratitude and joy, the graduates received their hard-earned medals and certificates, knowing that their efforts and perseverance throughout college paid off and produced fruitful results. Their education journey went so many ups and down, but the Lord's grace has caught them up to this momentous event.



As they go up the stage, the board of trustees and school officials proudly hand each certificate to the graduates, while the parents put the medals to their children.



Truly, each award is a reminder of the success that they have achieved after their bachelor course—success that they will carry on in the future.



So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16
(NKJV)

Singing their graduation song, the graduates expressed their thanksgiving to the Lord for His love, guidance, and faithfulness during their entire journey. They are also given a time to give thanks to their family and loved ones who have been their support circle since the beginning.

Graduation Song



While singing, the graduates give their loved ones a rose as appreciation and expression of gratitude for their unwavering support and love for the past years. Parents are touched by the kind and sweet gesture of their children. Some shed tears, while others are smiling their brightest.



Pledge of Loyalty

Molded in a vision-driven school, UCACOA graduates carry the Christian values and principles that are instilled in their hearts. Raising their right hands, they affirmed their loyalty to their alma mater while being led by Ms. Chrysantha Iniego.

Even though various trials arise in the midst of their journey, UCACOA graduates triumphed in knowing and exploring their strength and capabilities in preparation of becoming an excellent educators. Now, they are prepared to enter a new journey as professional teachers.



Colossians 3:2-4
(NKJV)

²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Photobooth

The graduates line up at the photobooth area to capture their celebratory milestones in remembrance of their achievements and memorable experiences that they accomplished after years of studying and growing in UCACOA.



They confidently display their achievements at the photobooth as this show their commitment and hard work in their craft.



Their big smiles reflect how joyful and grateful the graduates are being with their families as they commemorate their graduation day.



He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39
(NKJV)



Celebration

Celebrating a huge milestone, the church workers and graduates, together with their families, gathered for a joyful meal at Vikings Luxury Buffet, SM BF. It was a night of thanksgiving to God's faithfulness, honoring as well their hard work and achievements. It is a heartwarming time of fellowship as it marks the beginning of a new journey.



The overflowing joy from the Lord radiates in their faces. This graduation is a history of the institution and a testament of how the Lord moves in the lives of the graduates.



Throughout the journey of the graduates, the support and love of their families are evident. We are indeed grateful to the Lord for this family!



Congratulating the UCACOA graduates, Parañaque City Vice Mayor Hon. Benjo Bernabe and Barangay Captain of BF Homes Hon. Jeremy Marquez are all smiles with Founder Rev. Dr. William Sy, his wife Mrs. Dely Sy, School Head Rev. Dr. James Sy, and the faculty members.



Congratulations!

Romans 8:9
(NKJV)

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

“ I feel truly blessed and grateful to have finished my college education at UCACOA. This school contributed greatly to my holistic growth. The nurturing environment, the dedicated mentors, pastors, leaders, and the faith-centered community all played a vital role in shaping my character, deepening my faith, and strengthening my passion for service. I am challenged academically, guided spiritually, and empowered emotionally. It is truly a blessing, and I will be forever thankful.

Arianne Alejandro ”

UCACOA Graduate

“ I am very blessed to have finished my college education at UCACOA, and I am truly grateful to the Lord for the privilege of being one of its first fruits. Beyond all the achievements I have gained, UCACOA has shaped me to be the person I am today through the Lord's guidance and the support of its faculty and staff. They taught me to see life from a broader perspective, that it's not just about learning, teaching, or achieving, but about knowing your purpose and using your life for the glory of His Kingdom alone.

Chrysanthia Iniego ”

UCACOA Graduate

“ I am beyond grateful for all that the Lord has done in my life throughout the years I've been in UCA and UCACOA. His faithfulness has truly led me to the place where I belong. He has used people to teach me, guide me, and mold me in every aspect of my growth—spiritually and emotionally. I am a living testimony of God's grace and purpose to the ministry He has called.

Beatrice Vargas ”

UCACOA Graduate

“ I'm beyond blessed that I have graduated with a bachelors degree in Tech-Voc Teacher Education in UCACOA. Throughout the years, UCA and UCACOA have taught me that God should always be the center of our lives and that we should impart that to others. No matter the circumstances or challenges that life brings, I'll continue to abide in God and keep His promises in my heart. For wherever He will lead me in the next part of my journey as an educator, I will follow. To God be the highest glory!

Andrea Jamena ”

UCACOA Graduate

“ I thank the Lord for His goodness and faithfulness throughout my journey as a student at UCACOA. This journey has not been smooth nor easy, but I was able to finish it with the help of the Lord, my family, teachers and professors, and the UCF family. UCACOA is part of the UCF Group of Ministries, which provided an opportunity for a worker like me to learn academically, to develop skills, and to grow professionally. I will use this learning for the growth of the ministry and for the glory of God!

Trisha Mae Dimaranan ”

UCACOA Graduate

“ Now, I can finally say that I'm a graduate, and UCACOA is one of the reasons why this happened. I thank the Lord for UCACOA and I am really blessed beyond words. Also, I know that the school didn't just prepare me to be a teacher, but it also taught me what it truly means to be one. Not just a teacher who delivers lessons, but one who has values, compassion, and love. Truly, the school helps me to access my future.

Christine Joy Demain ”

UCACOA Graduate

“ I am not only blessed to have completed my tertiary education at UCACOA, but I am also immensely grateful to be part of a vision-driven institution led by the Lord. The amount of learning, skills, and training the school has invested in us is invaluable. To say that they go above and beyond is an understatement. They have instilled in us a transformative education that we will carry and pass on from generation to generation. Praise the Lord for UCACOA!

Angel Tolentino ”

UCACOA Graduate

“ I am beyond blessed that after six years of perseverance, sacrifice, and growth, I have finally completed my college journey. Studying at UCACOA was more than just earning a degree—it was a testament of God's grace and faithfulness. The institution shaped me into a future educator and leader who values service, compassion, and integrity. This journey gave me hope for the future and reminded me that it's all possible through God's guidance. Praise the Lord!

Joy Cabus ”

UCACOA Graduate

“ I feel incredibly blessed to be in UCACOA. I gained lots of experiences and learned many things that I'll carry with me wherever I go. These are things I can truly use and be proud of. Through the responsibilities they entrusted to me, I learned to be accountable and to always be true to my words and actions. And if it weren't for the Lord, I wouldn't be able to achieve anything, so I am incredibly grateful to our Lord.

Joshua Aries Ani, Jr. ”

UCACOA Graduate

“ I am truly blessed to have finished my college education at UCACOA. God's faithfulness was evident in His perfect timing and calling. Through the dedication of its teachers and staff, UCACOA not only equipped me with knowledge, but it also taught me the heart behind true education. The Lord has instilled in me values, patience, and a meaningful sense of purpose through the individuals who embody the institution.

Ma. Louzelle Desalva ”

UCACOA Graduate

And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:10
(NKJV)

PAGKAKAISA SA Panginoon

Bakas sa mga anak ng Diyos ang naising magtipon-tipon upang magkaroon ng oras sa pagsaliksik sa Panginoon at makatulong sa gawain ng Diyos. Kaya naman sa pangunguna ni Rev. Dr. William Sy, ang ilan sa mga miyembro ay dumalo sa iba't ibang gawain sa UCF Mt. Tabor Church nitong nakaraang linggo.

Layunin ni Rev. Dr. Sy na ang mga nakakilala na sa Panginoon ay magpatuloy sa pagsunod sa Salita ng Diyos. Kaya naman iba't ibang programa ang kaniyang inilulunsad sa panambahan. Ito ay upang bigyang pagkakataon ang bawat isa na makibahagi sa gawain at matanim rin sa kanilang mga puso ang naising maglingkod sa Panginoon.

Papuri sa Panginoon sa mga buhay na Kaniyang binago upang maging testimonya ng Kaniyang kabutihan at kaluwalhatian.

FELLOWSHIP

Nagsama-sama ang mga anak ng Diyos bilang pagpapasalamat sa kabutihan Niya na naranasan ng bawat isa.



Masayang nagsalu-salo ang bawat isa sa masasarap na putaheng baon at hinanda ng bawat nagsipagdalo.



CONSTRUCTION

Bilang paghahanda sa pagbubukas ng UCA sa Mt. Tabor, sinimulan nang itayo ang gusali para sa mag-aaral ng pre-school.



Sa pamumuno ni Rev Dr. William Sy, ang mga pundasyon at bubong ng gusali ay kasalukuyang itinatayo at isinasaayos.

AGRITOURISM

Ang mga manggagawa ay nakiisa sa *agritourism* sa pangunguna ni Bro. Jojo Andal. Ang bawat isa ay nabigyan ng karagdagang kaalaman sa pagtanim ng iba't ibang klase ng halaman. Isang kapakinabangan din ito bilang paghahanda sa *livelihood program* ng Mt. Tabor.



Gumawa rin ng panibagong mga poste para sa mga itatanim na dragon fruit. Ang mga gulay naman tulad ng talong, okra at pipino ay tinanim na upang magbunga makalipas ng ilang buwan.



TALONG



OKRA



PIPINO

Sama-sama ang mga manggagawa sa pagbisita ng mga tahanan ng ilan sa kanilang mga kapamilya. Nagkaroon ng pagkakataon na sila ay makamusta at makilala ng kapatiran. Isang mapagpalang pagbisita rin ang naganap sapagkat ipinanalangin din ang bawat isa at naipahayag ang Salita ng Diyos sa kanilang tahanan.

HOUSE VISITATION



Ang kapatiran ay buong tiwala na ang Diyos ang Siyang hihipo sa puso ng mga taong kanilang nabisita.

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

Romans 6:11-12
(NKJV)

The Mark of a...

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Jesus is the propitiation for our sins. Jesus satisfies God's justice and wrath toward our sins.

C. Love is a command, it is not based on feelings (the services are caused of God).

v.11 - Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Matthew 5:43-47

⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet your brethren only, what

do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

John was saying that we must love those who may not be especially lovable or easy to love. There may be people in the church whom you do not like. John says, "Beloved, if God so loved you, you also ought to love that difficult person." It is in these difficult situations that God's amazing love in Christ shines forth in us. If you're having trouble loving someone, remember that God loved you while you were yet a sinner. He sent His Son to a world that is filled with sin. If you are His child through the new birth, then you must be the channel for His love to flow to those who may not be very lovable.

Conclusion

The mark of a true believer is love.

- Love is the result of being born of God (the source is God).
- Love was manifested to us through the death of Jesus Christ (the standard is God).
- Love is a command; it is not based on feelings (the services are caused of God).

SERMON NOTES

Write the points to remember from the sermon as you seek God in your life.

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00 AM (Parañaque)
- SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
3:00 PM (Cabuyao, Laguna)
- HOUSE OF PRAYER
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- HOME BIBLE CHURCH & STUDY
Monday - Thursday
Laguna Areas

Scan these QR codes to watch the replays of the UCF Sunday Worship Services.

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