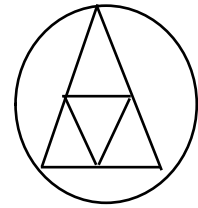


THE COCO VOICE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS OF OKTIBBEHA
COUNTY, INC.



P. O. BOX 152
STARKVILLE, MS 39759

662-323-8876

VOLUME

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2003

DONATION - 25 CENT

MESSAGE

LOVE IS A VERB

When I prepared for my ordination as a probationary elder I was given a scripture to read, analyze, write a sermon on, and deliver that sermon. The scripture was 1 Corinthians chapter 8 and verse 13, "if what I eat is going to make another Christian sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live - for I do not want to make another Christian stumble."

I don't smoke and I believe those mature persons who want to have that right. The word love, as a verb, means to show, to do: it is action. I have asked myself these questions and I have asked them many times of my wife and other people. Can people who smoke in their cars with the windows up and their children in the car with them really and truly love them -- babies, toddlers, and school age children? Do they care that their children's bodies and clothing will smell of smoke? Do they believe that second hand smoke is bad for everyone? Do they care? Many will tell you that they love their children and would never do anything to hurt them. Many are gambling that their smoking will not affect the health of their children.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 8:13, "I will never eat meat again I will not smoke, if it is possible that my love ones may be hurt by it, now or later. Is your love a verb?"

Rev. John Brooks
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