

Preached by Dr. Syl Lorenzo Shannon
Bush Hill Presbyterian Church
Alexandria, Virginia
May 17, 2009 – Music Sunday

John 15:9–17
Psalm 98

DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING — STAND THERE

Text: Live within my love ... I demand that you love each other as much as I love you ... (twice Christ says:) I demand that you love each other (John 15:9–17)

Take a deep breath. Hold it. Now exhale. Are you totally relaxed? The reason I ask ... most of us believe that we must always **do something!** Accomplish this, do that. Stay busy. Christ teaches the opposite. The Scripture reminds us: **They that wait upon the Lord ... shall renew their strength.**

Reading today's Gospel gives me some pain. It is sometimes hard to love those who are close to you. How could we learn to love everyone ... even those we do *not* like? First, we need to understand that we have no option. This is a command — a demand from Christ himself. **"I demand that you love each other."**

Maybe I need to introduce Jesus Christ. Steve Harvey, the comedian did it this way at the Apollo Theatre one night.

If I had the pleasure of bringing out Christ — this is how I would do it. It ain't got to be the way you'd do it. You might think it's just right ... or a little over the top. But this is how I would do it.

Ladies and Gentlemen: It is my honor to introduce a man who needs no introduction! His credits are too long to list. He has done the impossible time after time! He comes to us out of a manger in Bethlehem — by WAY OF HEAVEN.

His Mother is still head-lining the Catholic Church today!

His Daddy is the author of a book that has been on the best sellers list since the beginning of time.

He holds the record for the world's greatest fish-fry. He fed 5,000 hungry souls with two fish and five loaves of bread.

Many times he turned a roadside into a hospital room. He can walk on water. Turn water into wine. No special effects. No camera tricks.

He has a head shot in every church across the land.

Even before the King of Comedy, He was hailed King of all Kings. Ruler of the Universe ... The Lilly of the Valley ... The Bright and

Morning Star. Some say He is the Rose of Sharon. Some say He is the Prince of Peace.

Get up on your feet and show your love for the Second Coming of the One and Only!

Jesus Christ (Wade Taylor) enters and says (from Matthew 5:9–11):

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Prayer: Lord, during this 500th anniversary of John Calvin, teach us how to simply stand for something. We thank you for the health of the church. We thank you for the music of the church. We thank you for the people of the church. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.