

INFORMED & inspired

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In Defense of New Math or Show Your Work

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

One of the more challenging things that has presented itself for virtual learning in our household is math. New Math, as some are calling it, is a new way of adding, subtracting, dividing, and multiplying. We have learned the difference between standard form, word form, and expanded form. The real trick comes in when you have to show your work between the three forms. It is a lot. It's frustrating for students and parents alike because they basically give you the answer in word form written out, but you have to put it into different forms. It's a lot. And you have to show your work.

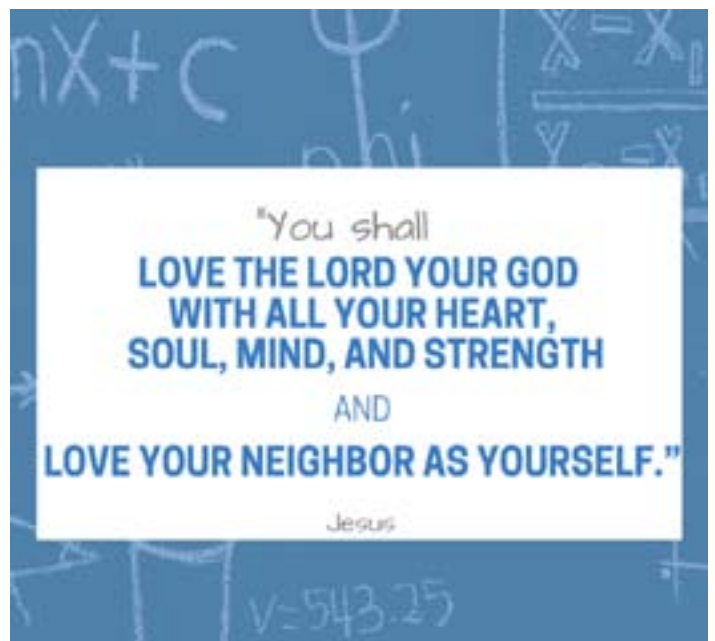
Here's the other thing that I've learned, the answer is the same no matter how you arrived there. Just because they aren't teaching it the way that I am used to doesn't mean that the answer is any different. It doesn't mean that the answer is wrong. Even though the path may be different, the answer is the same.

So then, I'm left with two options: 1) complain about the New Math, rebel against it, blame others, and influence my kid in a way that questions authority **OR** 2) embrace the change, help him show the work, and allow a different way to lead to the same answer.

Let's apply this analogy to our faith. First, let's start with the answer. The answer Jesus says to us is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself." That is the answer to the question, "What is my purpose in life?" So we know the answer; we know the question. How do we get to the end result?

For some, it may look different than others. There may be a way that is filled with an understanding of teachings and traditions. There may be a way that takes into account modern interpretations mixed with historical criticism. There may be a way that exudes grace upon grace upon grace--enough to make people wonder what is so different about the way that we live. The way is irrelevant--as long as you can show your work and as long as you arrive at the same answer: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself." It doesn't matter how you get there. It can be the old way or it can be a new way. But if you cannot arrive at that answer or show your work, then it doesn't matter if it is the old way or the new way. It is the wrong way.

Know the answer. Show your work. Don't be afraid of New Math.



Did you know ... ?

- **Outdoor Movie Night:** Saturday, September 12 at 6 p.m. Relax and watch “The Sandlot” with family and friends from a safe distance on our east campus lawn. Popcorn and snacks are provided. (Thanks, UMW!) Reserve a large cheese or pepperoni pizza from OZ Pizza to feed you and your family. Cost: \$18 in advance online; \$20 cash at door (no change available). Only reserved pizza will be provided, so order yours by Thursday, September 10, at fayettevillefirst.com or [follow this link](#).
- The **Drive-Thru at FFUMC** continues every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Stop by the church office porch for prayer; to drop off a donation to the church or Fayette Samaritans, or to just see a friendly face!
- **Youth Kick-Off Party:** Our youth kick off the fall on Wednesday, September 9, at 5:30 in Parking Lot C. Parents, look for new weekly communication from Youth Director Hannah Vickery.
- Join a **mission trip** to south Georgia on October 11 - 16. Contact Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin, tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com, or Maggie Clarke, maggieclarke@comcast.net, for more information.



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Helping those in need

You continue to meet needs of people in our community seeking assistance to shelter and feed their families during these uncertain days. Many are finding themselves for the first time ever in need of rent and utility assistance from being laid off or experiencing a reduction in hours at jobs. Others need food donations to supplement the grocery budget. **You've been helping! Thank you!** Here are some upcoming opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ:

Benevolence:

On this communion Sunday, September 6, you are invited to bring an extra offering for our benevolence fund. So far your gifts have helped 58 families this year with a total of \$14, 723.22 in assistance.

Fayette Samaritans:

Drop by a food donation for Fayette Samaritans any time at the church office. For extra convenience, pull through the Drive-Thru on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

September needs list: Green Beans, Corn, Pasta Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Rice, Dried Beans. Canned Fruit, Cereal, Soup, Jelly

