

#MVCNlife (6 of 6)

Pastor Bill Bowers | October 14, 2018

Real Love

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21 (NLT)

How do we love each other in the family of God?

1. Remember how much **God loves us**. (1 John 4:9)
2. Love others **self-sacrificially**. (1 John 4:10)
3. Love those who are **difficult to love**. (1 John 4:20)

“We might define true community as that place where the person you least want to live with lives.”
-Parker J. Palmer (*A Place Called Community*, 1977)

A key to empathy:

If people are not on my **heart**,
they're on my **nerves**. (-Rick Warren)

4. Extend a great deal of **forgiveness**. (1 John 4:10)

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)

Know Christ and make Him known.

Grow disciples who grow disciples.

Show the love of Christ to our community and beyond.

HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21 (NLT)

1. Our teaching text from 1 John 4:21 is very bold, “Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.” How does this make you feel? How would you describe your love for other believers, especially those who may not see eye-to-eye with you (in your own church, other denominations, other traditions like Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Etc.)?
2. When you think of God’s love for you, do you ever consider that love as conditional? Do you think God is ever “mad” or “angry” with you? Why or why not?
3. Pastor Bill shared that we are learning to love others self-sacrificially. Can you describe any personal examples of self-sacrificial love?
4. We heard a couple of quotes (by Parker Palmer and Rick Warren) about “difficult people” who are brought into our lives. Both quotes indicated the incredible grace and opportunity these people provide us to learn about love. How does this make you feel? Do you look at these difficult people in your life as blessings from God to help you learn the ways of godly love? Please explain your answers.
5. Do you recognize a difference between loving feelings and loving actions? What are the differences and do those differences matter?
6. How have you enjoyed and learned from the #MVCNlife series? Do you understand the mission and vision of the Mountain View Church of the Nazarene better? Are there areas of the church life you feel led to partner with? Who will help you and who will you partner with?