

WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

MISUNDERSTANDING THE MINISTRY TO LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment"

~ Philippians 1:9

1. Love Misunderstood

- a. "Love thy neighbor" described Christian ministry since Luke 10:25-37, but what is it?
- b. Pastors show "love" by visitation and listening to problems (complaints? confessed sin?)
- c. Churches "spread love to the community" by entertaining, free programs, gifts.
- d. John 13:35 - Can we know Christ's disciples by their love? What does love look like?
- e. What most get wrong today is not "who is my neighbor", but what love looks like.
- f. If you misunderstand love, you will misunderstand ministry and love thy neighbor.

2. Do You Know What Love Is?

- a. We are to be "rooted and grounded" "abounding" and "walking" in love - Eph 3:17
- b. Are we taught of God to love one another, or are we taught by culture? 1 Thess 4:9
- c. Love can be perverted, distorted, and evil - John 3:19, 1 Tim 6:10, 2 Tim 3:4
- d. *'Love is nice, feels comfortable, wants what it wants, deserved, required, warm feelings inside, does crazy things, makes me happy, never hinders/refuses, lust & obsession'*
- e. This is contrary to every part of the definition in 1 Cor 13:1-7
- f. In a world that misunderstands love, defining it from the Bible is controversial.

3. Love Thy Neighbour

- a. Love thy neighbour is defined by the law - Mt 22:39, Jam 2:8-10, Gal 5:14, Ro 13:8-10
- b. Lev 19:9-18 describes loving neighbors, and it is more about what you don't do.
 - i. Love leaves some to give - v9-10 (Acts 20:35, 2 Cor 9:7)
 - ii. Love walks in truth with your neighbor - v11-12 (Eph 4:15, 25)
 - iii. It is not loving to take what is rightfully your neighbors - v13 (1 Cor 6:8)
 - iv. Don't curse the deaf or hinder the blind neighbors - v14 (Eph 4:18, 2 Cor 4:4s)
 - v. Want to love your neighbor? Judge him (rightly) - v15 (1 Cor 2:15)
 - vi. Don't spread rumors, secret facts, or tell stories to hurt - v16 (Eph 4:29)
 - vii. Don't hate him: rebuke, correct, instruct instead - v17 (2 Tim 3:16)
 - viii. Love does not avenge or bear grudges - v18 (Rom 12:19, Eph 4:2)

4. Love and Feelings

- a. You can feel loved, but your feeling does not define love.
- b. If more love makes people feel better than why does Paul say this → 2 Cor 12:15
- c. Phi 1:9 - Without knowledge and judgment (truth), love is misunderstood.
- d. Love does not respect persons, but your feelings are very partial - 1 Tim 5:21
- e. Love is not sentiment, romantic, selfish, people pleasing - Gal 1:10, Eph 6:6
- f. Love is honest, according to truth, according to doctrine - 2 John 5-7, 1 John 4:15-18
- g. "I don't want to be unloving" - it is more loving to speak truth than not.
- h. A truly loving ministry cares more about them loving truth than loving us - 1 Th 2:10

5. Love Under Grace

- a. Love can be most clearly seen and ministered in this dispensation of grace.
- b. Christ is the example of God's love because he did God's will to help man - Phi 2:7-8
 - i. He could've 'shown love' by living longer, healing more, multiplying more, but...
- c. Love is taking responsibility for the benefit/good of another - Rom 15:1-2, 5:8, 1Ti 5:8
- d. Love is freely given (as is grace), not forced, demanded, obligated - Lev 19:5, 2Co 9:7
- e. Love is service to others in the will of God (ministry) - 1 Tim 2:4
- f. Loving thy neighbor was one time the law, but now it is performed through the preaching of the cross of Jesus Christ – God's grace toward men.