

June 25, 2017

## Sharing Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### “Love and Friendship”

Text: 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-11

The task of the church is to engage people where they are and introduce them to a new way of living.

Ref: Matthew 9:36; John 13:35

Love is the foundation of life Ref: 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:8

The church is the universal experiment in love. God seeks to reveal Himself to the world in Christ and uses the church as His presence.

What binds us together is Jesus Christ, and we live out these relationships in the context of the church. However, God has called us to go beyond the walls of the church to the highways and byways of our community.

We must go beyond the circumference of life to connect with others who need a touch of God's love.

God has blessed the church with wonderful gifts of the Spirit. Ref: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:4-7; 27-31

All gifts of the Spirit must have one thing in common—love.

Love is the oil that lubricates the engine of ministry enabling it to run. Without love, ministry doesn't happen and Christ is not glorified.

How can love be defined? Love is intentional.

Love means you choose to “Walk Across The Room” to become God's helper in someone's life.

#### Love Is Doing Something

The Bible declares that we show love to our neighbor by doing for him or her the same thing we want done to and for ourselves.

#### Love Is Caring

Caring for others serving them out of concern for them and helping them feel better about life.

#### Love Is Helpful

Helping is a practical act of love. It is a physical thing done to help solve an actual problem in another's life.

## Love Is For Another Person

Love is directed towards another person. We can love because God first loved us. Jesus demonstrated God's love by giving his life for us. Ref: Romans 5:8

## Love Is Expressed In Jesus Name

God is love. Therefore, to love properly God must empower love.

Love Is Shown Regardless of the Cost or Consequences to Oneself.

True love doesn't s\_\_\_\_\_ its own way. Ref: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:5

Demonstrating love is s\_\_\_\_\_; it cost something---time, money, energy, and it is always sacrificial.

Love can be thought of as an investment in something God highly values, a h\_\_\_\_\_ life.

By letting love rule in your life, you open yourself to what God is doing in the world around you. Ref: Matthew 22:36-40

For many, loving others unconditionally is difficult if not impossible to do. Because human love is frail and often fickle, God \_\_\_\_\_ to fill us with His love. Ref: Romans 8:26

So love is a d\_\_\_\_\_, not a feeling The feeling or emotion of love comes after the decision to love has been made.

Here's the secret to winning people to Christ.

When you have decided to love, your actions speak out of that love, develop relationship and draw others to Christ. Ref: John 12:32

The pure love of God changes the heart of a sinner. As that person comes to know Jesus and turns away from his life of sin, the pure love of God begins to t\_\_\_\_\_ him into a vessel of God's love. Ref: 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-11

This intense love must be channeled and directed. Learning how to manage our hearts under this "load of love" requires living in relationship with others. It cannot be done in solitude,

The church provides the structure for these quality relationships to happen.