
❖SERMON NOTES❖

Sunday, September 7, 2014

LOVE CHALLENGE

(John 13:31-35)

How would we go about determining if we are a living, healthy church as called for in the Bible? What is the measure. Jesus said, *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one another”* (John 13:35, ESV).

1. WE ARE TO LOVE _____.

2. WE ARE TO LOVE _____.

3. WE ARE TO LOVE _____.

4. WE ARE TO LOVE _____.

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(John 13:31-35)

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one another” (John 13:35, ESV).

1. WE ARE TO LOVE SELFLESSLY.

2. WE ARE TO LOVE SACRIFICIALLY.

“Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’- only to go on doing all these abominations?” (Jeremiah 7:9-10, ESV).

3. WE ARE TO LOVE UNDERSTANDINGLY.

4. WE ARE TO LOVE GRACIOUSLY.

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32, ESV).

“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20, ESV).

10 Love Challenges

1 John 3:14

- 1 Pray for one family

- 2 Speak to one person

- 3 Encourage one person

- 4 Carry one burden

- 5 Visit one person

- 6 Give one gift

- 7 Forgive one person

- 8 Welcome one person

- 9 Share one meal

- 10 Relegate one preference

10 Love Challenges

- 1 Pray for one family: Pray for specific and special needs in your church family and for one other family in particular. Use the church directory or your BFG list to select one family to pray for regularly in the next 30 days.
- 2 Speak to one person: We all have our favorite people and places to sit and stand in church. Why not sit somewhere different, exit through a different door, or stand in a different place and risk meeting a different person? Just once a month, speak to someone you don't usually speak to.
- 3 Encourage one person: You appreciate people in your church family, but have you ever told them? Have you ever highlighted one of their gifts or graces and told them how thankful to God you are for them? Once a month, go out of your way to find one person and encourage them.
- 4 Carry one burden: Speak to someone who is suffering in your church and ask them how they are. It may be someone who is ill, struggling with a wayward child or someone struggling financially. As you listen, express concern, and feel sympathy. Although you walk away heavier, they walk away lighter.
- 5 Visit one person: Perhaps start with the homebound, the sick and those with special needs, but select one person in your church to visit once in the next 30 days. If you can't do it in person, you can "visit" by phone.
- 6 Give one gift: Share your abundance. People and families in your church cannot afford to buy a book, go out for a meal, go on vacation, or even buy all the groceries. \$10 gets them a book, \$20 can get a meal for two, \$100 would make a huge difference to a grocery budget.
- 7 Forgive one person: Is there someone you've fallen out with? A strained relationship? Whether you are the offender, they are, or you both are, make one attempt to reconcile with them. If you can't make progress in reconciliation, at least speak to them, express interest, and show affection towards them.
- 8 Welcome one person: Different people visit your church every month – vacationers, friends and family of members, strangers, seekers, church-hoppers, etc. Welcome them. Take the initiative, go out of your way to show that you're glad they came, exchange contact details, etc.
- 9 Share one meal: Once a month invite someone, a single, a couple, or a family to share a meal with you in your home. Don't make it fancy or complicated (or you won't do it again) but simple, informal, and do-able. The focus should be the fellowship not the food.
- 10 Relegate one preference: Some things in church life and the Christian life are biblical principle. Other things are personal preference – clothing, hobbies, sports, education choices, etc. Search your life for one preference that you've turned into a principle, relegate it, let it go, and watch relationships improve.