

**EHS #9**  
**1John 4:7,8**

**03/11/2018**  
**Sunday a.m.**

**SLIDE 1 – EHS #9 – Spiritual Maturity REQUIRES Emotional Maturity**

**SLIDE 2 – GROWING TO FULL MATURITY – THE GOAL**

- Christ gave gifts to the Church – APEST – **Ephesians 4:11-16** - Discipleship
  - Equip Christ-followers, Unity, in Christ –FAITH & KNOWLEDGE of Christ
- Title – **Learning to LOVE WELL**

**SLIDE 3 – ABOUT ICEBERGS**

- 10% of iceberg is visible – 90% of mass of the iceberg sits under water
- EHS – focusing on ‘what lies beneath’ – the stuff that is not apparent
  - Holy Spirit-led examination – ala **Psalm 139 – Search me...**

**SLIDES 4,5 – EPHESIANS 4:15,16**

**SLIDE 6 – SPEAK TRUTH – IN LOVE**

- Growing to full maturity – physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc...
- Rooted IN CHRIST → speaking TRUTH –
  - **John 8** – to His disciples: *“if you stick with what I’ve taught you, & live it out, you will KNOW the TRUTH, & the TRUTH will set you FREE.”*
- Truth in love → not easy, not ‘peaceful’ – truth can bring conflict & stir things up
  - In love part = wanting the best for you – even if/when it hurts/hard to hear
    - vs. wielding truth as a weapon/destructively

**SLIDE 7 – LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

- Jesus asked – “What is the greatest commandment?” Trick question? Rabbis
- **Matthew 22:34-40** – *Love God, love people* → *sums up the law & the prophets...*
  - Central focus of Christianity → God is LOVE, Jesus LOVES me...
  - Love God – heart, soul, mind, strength; Love people/neighbor – like self
    - Love ≠ touchy, feely = speaking truth in love, contending for right
    - Loving people enough to speak the truth

**SLIDES 8-10 – MATTHEW 7:12; 1JOHN 4:7,8**

**SLIDE 11 – LEARNING TO LOVE WELL**

- The Golden Rule – Proactive, thinking/acting towards others’ welfare – do good
- Jerry Cook – *“We have to be able to guarantee every person will be loved as Jesus loves them.”* JESUS – *“Its not ALL good.”*
- Admonition from John – **continue to/persist** love one another– WHY?
  - Love is from God – *out of, from, by, etc...*
  - Everyone who loves → child of God, relationship with/KNOWS God
- The person who REFUSES to love doesn’t KNOW God (1<sup>st</sup> thing)
  - If we don’t love, we can’t (obviously) KNOW Him
- People who know God – little pieces of Jesus – “Christians” = little Christs

**SLIDES 12-14 – PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4**

### **SLIDE 15 – LOVE IS LAYING DOWN RIGHTS**

- Kenosis – emptying self, laying aside ‘rights’ to embrace Godly obedience
- **Phil. 2** = Jesus’ example – which we are to follow
  - = laying down my preferences to be obedient to what God says
  - Truth in love? Not rolling over, ignoring, passive/aggressive... contending for the best – for me & for others - together

### **SLIDES 16-20 – MATTHEW 5:43-48**

#### **SLIDE 21 – CHRIST-LIKE: TO “BE & DO”...**

- unwritten rule “Love friend/neighbor & hate enemies” – it’s what people do
  - Christ-like challenge – LOVE enemies – Good Samaritan parable
- When (not if), people are unlovable, love anyway – agape
  - This is what God does w/o favoritism – characteristics/values of His family
    - GROW UP – kingdom/king’s family – live like it
  - Gracious & generous – even when/esp. when don’t feel like it/deserve it
    - Like God does WITH us = Grace – be & do, Christlikeness

#### **SLIDE 22 – MATTHEW 5:9 – PEACEMAKERS**

#### **SLIDE 23 – SPEAK TRUTH – IN LOVE**

- ESV – blessed are the peacemakers –
  - roll over, doormats, avoid conflict, compliant, passive/aggressive
  - vs. contending for truth, right, maturity in each other

#### **SLIDE 24 – GENESIS 1:26**

#### **SLIDE 25 – IN THE IMAGE OF GOD**

- every human being created in God’s image
- Weight, worth, value → Christ laid down His life → called to do the same
  - How we interact with other image-bearers at the forefront of our call as Christ-followers

#### **SLIDE 26 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?**

#### **SLIDE 27 – PRAYER IS AVAILABLE**