

Series: Show Me Your Ways
Sermon: Reckless Love
Scripture: Various
Speaker: Pastor Rob Booth

Discussion Questions:

1. What were some things that stood out to you from this past week's sermon?
2. Read Romans 8:35; 38: What specific things does Paul suggest won't get in the way of God's love for us?
3. Read Genesis 3: What are some ways that God's love is shown through this passage?
4. Read Ephesians 1:3-8: How does the doctrine of predestination reveal God's love for us?
5. What kind of things do we do that might lead others to love us less?
6. *Share:* In your experience, when have you seen people stop loving others? Why do you think this happened?
7. *Share:* Have you ever done anything that made you think that God loves you less?
8. How does God's unfailing love help us to be "more than conquerors"?
9. *Dig Deeper:* Is God's love really reckless? Why or why not?
10. Is it ever okay for us to stop loving others? Why or why not?
11. Why does God love you?
12. What connection is there between God's love and our wonder of God?
13. Have you lost your wonder of God? If so, why do you think this is?
14. **Activity:** Rewrite Paul's list from Romans 8:35-38 using examples from today
15. Applications: a. What are some things you can do this week to recapture your wonder of God?
b. Write down some ways that God demonstrates His love to you for the next week
16. For further study: a. Compare Ephesians 3:13-19 with Revelation 2:1-7
b. Read a psalm a day and write down how it reveals your wonder for God

Message Key Points – Sunday June 10, 2018 – “Reckless Love” Devotional

1. God’s reckless love is displayed in our sin.
2. God’s reckless love is never ending.
3. God’s reckless love is not hindered by trials.
4. God’s reckless love is beautifully displayed through Christ.
5. God’s reckless love will be complete in heaven.

Monday

Our most valued virtues are those that are expressed in relation to those things that haunt us the most. For example, the selfless service of first responders has no meaning without the fear or suffering of those they serve. It is devalued without inherent risk to their own well-being. It loses its luster without the notion that in times of need they place the needs of others above consideration of their own. Love itself is framed in the notion of a selfless orientation and concern for another. Love is itself the highest ethic. This is also the inherent beauty in God’s loving plan for us in Christ Jesus.

Read

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 3

Ephesians 1:3-14

Observation

What are some of the unique characteristics of mankind as revealed in the creation account in Genesis 1?

How does God reveal his long-term plan and care for mankind even in spite of disobedience in Genesis 3?

Interpretation

In what ways does the passage in Ephesians integrate and illuminate what we see in the Genesis passages?

What effect does sin have on our relationship with God?

What do we learn about God's character from Genesis 3?

Application

God has given an example of how even in light of betrayal one can operate in the best interest of another. Reflect on how you've responded to betrayals and consider if your ultimate ethic is one of love.

Tuesday

Love is grounded in the very nature of a triune God. One God in three persons that exists eternally in self-existent loving relationship. We see that even in the face of our fall, God's loving plan for restoration was already in place. God's love is never ending, and is revealed in full in the person and work of Jesus.

Read

1 John 4:7-21

John 3:16-21

John 15:13

Ephesians 5:2

Observation

What can we observe about God's nature from the 1 John passage?

In terms of what comes first, does God first love those that believe in Jesus, or has God sent Jesus out of his pre-existent love? See John 3.

Interpretation

In light of Ephesians 5 and John 15, consider the work of Jesus as an act of love. Has there ever been a greater act of love than this?

Read Romans 5:6-11

How does this passage demonstrate God's love for mankind?

How does this passage demonstrate God's plan of reconciliation foreshadowed in Genesis 3?

Application

Our response to God's love in Christ should be of the utmost humility and thanks. What is your response to God's love?

Consider whether you've been taking God's love for granted.

Wednesday

As Rob shared this past Sunday, God's love is everlasting. Nothing can separate us from God's love. Ultimately this love and restoration will be complete.

Observation

Read Romans 8:31-39

What does this passage indicate about whether we can be separated from God's love?

Read John 10:27-29

Who is able to separate the believer from Jesus?

Interpretation

Read Genesis 2:8-9 and Revelation 22:1-5

In what ways do these descriptions mirror each other?

In what ways does the Revelation account describe a restoration of the way God had originally made things?

If, as Paul indicates in Romans 8 that nothing can separate us from God's love, how should that affect our outlook during life's rough patches? Read Philippians 4:4-6.

In view of Philippians 4:4-6, what should we be mindful to do in all situations?

Application

In Matthew 6:31-34 and Philippians 4:4-6 the believer is told not to be anxious, but to be steadfast in prayer.

Does your prayer life reflect your relationship with God?

Are you experiencing anxiety over life's inevitable trials and troubles? Focus this week on sharing your heart/requests with God and trusting him to see you through.

Thursday

1 Corinthians 13 is known as the "love chapter". A cherished passage from Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth that describes the nature of love and the call of every Christian to this greatest ethic.

Read

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Observation

What is the value of any good act delivered without love?

What are the characteristics of love as described in this passage?

Interpretation

What does an act done without love reveal about the person performing the act?

Read 1 John 3:11-24

In this passage believers are called to acts of love. How would you describe the root distinction between acts of love and acts done without love?

How might Micah 6:6-8 relate in concept to what you've read in 1 Corinthians 13?

Application

Take note of your speech and actions. Do they indicate a heart of love for others?

Make a concerted effort to perform a selfless act, rooted in love this week.

Friday

"Christ loved you before you loved him. He loved you when there was nothing good in you. He loved you though you insulted him, though you despised him and rebelled against him. He has loved you right on, and never ceased to love you. He has loved you in your backslidings and loved you out of them. He has loved you in your sins, in your wickedness and folly. His loving heart was still eternally the same, and he shed his heart's blood to prove his love for you. He has given you what you want on earth, and provided for you an habitation in heaven.

Now Christian, your religion claims from you that you should love as your Master loved. How can you imitate him, unless you love too?"

CHARLES SPURGEON

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (Mt 22:35–40). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

"God is the first object of our love: Its next office is, to bear the defects of others. And we should begin the practice of this amidst our own household."

JOHN WESLEY

What then is our response?

Observation

In 1 Timothy 1:5 what do we see issues/comes from sincere faith?

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11

What do you notice about the sequence of qualities in this passage?

What is the foundation of these qualities?

What is the ultimate quality?

Interpretation

In the Matthew passage above, we see love is commanded as a summary of the law. How does this map to the ten commandments? See Exodus 20:1-17. How well, in your view, has Jesus done at summarizing the law?

Re-read the Matthew passage above, as well as its parallel passages in Luke 10:27 and Deuteronomy 6:5. What does it mean to love God with each of your heart, mind, soul and strength?

Application

A love for God and a love for others is both commanded and rightfully our response to God's grace and mercy. How would you assess your love for God and for others?

What steps could you take today to elevate your love for God in any area of heart, mind, soul or strength?

How might you continue to develop your love for others?

Saturday

Journaling

What are some things you have learned about God this week?

What are some things you have learned about yourself this week?

What aspects of God's love stood out for you between the message on Sunday and the passages you reviewed?

What might you do to remind yourself of God's love on a regular basis?

What might you do to show a genuine love for others?

What are some tangible ways in which you can lean into the assurance of God's love, giving over your anxieties and approaching him in prayer with regularity?