

Sermon Outline - Sun, November 22nd, 2020 – The Power of Love – What does it look like?
(Leviticus 19:17-18; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; 1 Peter 4:7-8)

Overview – We started this month with the pre-election sermon Transcendence often Requires Turbulence: Holy don't Play That. After the election we pivoted to the top of love where we have been for the past two weeks. Last week we started out breakdown of 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 looking at how we are called to love. We looked at patience, kindness, humility and openness as 4 concrete practices of love. Today we explore the other three.

Exegesis

- Corinth – heart of the Greek empire. Major temple dedicated to Aphrodite the goddess of love.
- This is not about romantic love. In Greek there were 7 types of love and the one used here is agape love – loosely translated love for all of humanity (it can extend beyond that to all of creation.)

Key Practices –

1. Forgives & Lets Go (Not irritable or resentful)
2. Celebrates truth wherever it is found (Never wrongdoing even if it seems justified)
3. Leans toward the best and the hopeful in all things

Reminder of 7 practices - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1595moXNyLYO8rrdk7ug-Wj7ncUFR4uYWXZQGqBR1VB8/edit#slide=id.gacc6c0285e_0_0

Lauren Olamina posits that God is change because change is always present. But the 1John 4:7,8 says that God is love because love endures. When everything else changes and passes away, it is love that endures. Love is who God is, love is God's greatest gift to us. When the Bible says that we are made in the image of God, the most powerful form of God in us is deep, abiding, enduring love.

This is the way that God loves us. I don't know how God does it, but love is God's very nature. This is the way that we are called to love God and to love others. But it is also the way we are called to love ourselves. Sometime we find it easy to see how we are deserving of love but struggle to extend it to others. We see our intentions and cut ourselves the kind of break we don't give others. Some of us are pretty good at loving others but we struggle to love ourselves, to give ourselves the same grace.

Poem from the children - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1595moXNyLYO8rrdk7ug-Wj7ncUFR4uYWXZQGqBR1VB8/edit#slide=id.gacc6c0285e_0_0

Core Questions –

1. Do you struggle more to give love to yourself or to others?
2. Which of the 7 practices do you need to work on most?
3. During this week when we have a little time off what do you want to do to lean into deeper love for God, yourself or others?