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Groups Sermon Study Questions

MENDING FENCES

September 3, 2017

Message Summary

It's easy to generalize and develop negative attitudes toward people who are different from us. But God doesn't care about skin color, speech, custom or ethnicity; he loves all people who he has created in his image. The greatest commandments are to love God first and then to love our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore, as Christians, we are called to root out any prejudicial attitudes, and intentionally reach out and love those who are different.

Consider This

- 1. Have you ever been belittled either by words or prejudicial treatment because you were different, whether due to your race, gender, ethnicity or something else? How did that make you feel?
- 2. Have you seen or experienced someone who ignored these differences and reached out in genuine love to help someone dissimilar? How did that make you feel?

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today."

- Martin Luther King Jr—1963

Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7 and Matthew 18:1-5.

3. How does the Lord look at people and what is important to him?

4. How would you interpret Matthew 18:1-5? How should it affect your attitude about what God considers great and good and what the world considers great?

Read Acts 6:1-6.

Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" John 13:35.

5. What happens when believers reach out in love across dividing lines? What happened when the dispute between the Hellenistic and Hebraic believers was reconciled by intentional intervention in Acts 6:1-6? What was the result (V 7)?

Read Ephesians 4:3 and Galatians 3:26-28.

6. In Ephesians 4:3 Paul commands believers to, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." What are the reasons given according to verses 4-5, 15-16, 31-32?

Read Matthew 7:12.

7. According to what you just read, how should Christians apply love to others? Can you think of at least one practical example of how you could apply this principle this week in your home, work, school or social activities?

Moving Forward

Each day this coming week, read and apply one of the following verses to your interactions with others.

DAY 1 Romans 12:9

DAY 2 Romans 12:10

DAY 3 Romans 12:13

DAY 4 Romans 12:14

DAY 5 Romans 12:15

DAY 6 Romans 12:16

DAY 7 Romans 12:17-18