

Living Out Love – Week 1

1. Our culture streams messages to us every day.
 - a. “Follow your heart” – Steve Jobs, 2005 Stanford commencement speech.
 - b. Cultural messages emphasize individualism—even the “American Dream” is all about pursuing your own success.
2. God has given us messages through His Word
 - a. Community, not individualism—100 imperatives towards one another (small sample below)

Action/Attitude	Verse	Reference
Love	“Love one another as I have loved you.”	John 13:34
Forgive	“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”	Colossians 3:13
Serve	“Through love serve one another.”	Galatians 5:13
Encourage	“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”	1 Thessalonians 5:11
Submit	“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”	Ephesians 5:21
Care for	“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”	Galatians 6:2
Live in Harmony	“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.”	Romans 12:16
Teach	“Teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with gratitude in your hearts to God.”	Colossians 3:16
Be Kind	“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.”	Ephesians 4:32
Speak Truthfully	“Let no dishonest talk come out of your mouths, but only what is good for building up the body, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”	Ephesians 4:29
Pray	“Pray for each other.”	James 5:16
Live in Humility	“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another”	1 Peter 5:5
Exhort	“But exhort one another every day...that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”	Hebrews 3:13

3. We do the “one anothers” in Community: immediate family, then small groups of believers (community group, discipleship relationships), and the church body.
4. 3 personal testimonies of the one anothers in my life:
 - a. Early 2001 – Community group leaders (Scott and Gretchen Crowley). Pray for each other. Encourage one another.
 - b. Early 2005 – First time any of our children required surgery – a friend from FBC helped “bear our burden”
 - c. 2022 – “Exhort one another”: Hebrews 3:12-13 (My wife)
 - i. “Brothers” – written to Christians
 - ii. “See to it that none of you has an evil—unbelieving—falling away—hardened heart.”: What sin does if undetected, unexposed, and unforsaken.
 - iii. We all have pockets of spiritual blindness. Because of sin’s deceitfulness. We don’t actually know we are blind.
 - iv. We are all subject to two lies: autonomy and self-sufficiency.
 - v. Because our hearts are prone to worship other things, and the deceitfulness of sin doesn’t allow us to see it; I need other members of the community to help me. Paul Tripp said something profound: “My sanctification is a community project.”

- **Discussion Questions**

- How would we characterize the love of God for us? If you can think of one, answer this question using a personal example of how that love was shown to you in community with other believers.

- What is the practical importance of knowing and understanding the love of God for us? (How does, or how should, this affect our everyday life in community with one another?)

- **Foundation: Why is this important?**

- Head knowledge, heart knowledge
 - Romans 12:2 – “...be transformed by the renewing of your mind”
 - Philippians 1:8-11

- Calls to Love One Another:
 - 1 John 3:1; 11-14
 - Matthew 22:35-40
 - Romans 13:8-10

- **Love in the Meta-Narrative of Scripture**

- From Before Creation...
 - 2 Timothy 1:9
 - 1 John 4:7-10

- ...To Revelation
 - Genesis 1-3
 - Promise of a Deliverer (Gen. 3:15)
 - OT focus on Israel
 - Deliverance from Egypt
 - Provision of sacrificial system
 - Eventual fulfillment of the promise of a Deliverer

- **The story of Scripture unabashedly shouts about the love of God for mankind.**

- Two examples of God's desire for us to grow in love:

- 1 John 4:7-14

- Ephesians 3:14-19