



Jason Smith - I love my church - People Matter

1 John 4:7–8

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

People matter deeply to God, so they must matter to us.

See people as God sees them and treat them with love, respect, grace, and compassion.

Introduction

- Last week, we discussed Jesus's command to love one another.
- This week, we are building upon that truth: **People matter.**
- Every person we encounter has:
 - A story
 - Struggles
 - Dreams
 - Fears
 - Hopes
 - God-given value
- It is easy to become so focused on our own lives that we overlook the people around us.
- God calls His church to:
 - Love people as they are
 - Welcome them into our community
 - Recognize their worth
 - Show them the love of Christ

- We cannot genuinely say that we love God while consistently refusing to love people.

1. God Loves People

Scripture: 1 John 4:7–8

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God... Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

- Love is not merely something God does, **love is part of who God is.**
- Our ability to love others comes from our relationship with God.
- The closer we grow to God, the more His love should be visible in us.
- Loving people reflects God’s character to the world.
- If our faith never affects how we treat people, something is missing.

The Good Samaritan

- The Samaritan noticed someone whom others had ignored.
- He stopped, showed compassion, and provided practical help.
- He did not ask whether the injured man deserved assistance.
- He simply recognized that a hurting person mattered.
- Genuine love is more than a feeling—it moves us to action.

Application

- Look for practical ways to show God’s love:
 - Offer encouragement.
 - Perform an act of kindness.
 - Pray with someone.
 - Listen without rushing.
 - Be present for someone who is hurting.
 - Help meet a practical need.
- Ask yourself: **“Can people see God’s love through the way I treat them?”**

2. See People Through God’s Eyes

Scripture: Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Why does someone demonstrate something?

The purpose of demonstrating something is to **show it clearly through action or evidence**, rather than merely talking about it.

“God demonstrates His love for us” (Romans 5:8), it means God didn’t just say He loved us—He proved it through action by sending Christ to die for us.

- God did not wait for us to become perfect before loving us.
- Christ died for us while we were still broken and sinful.
- God saw beyond our failures and recognized the person we could become through His grace.
- We must learn to look beyond:
 - Someone’s appearance
 - Their reputation
 - Their past
 - Their mistakes
 - Their personality
 - Their present circumstances
- People should not have to earn our compassion.
- We can love people without approving of every decision they make.
- Grace does not ignore wrongdoing, but it refuses to define a person only by their worst moment.

Application

- Be patient with people who are difficult to love.
- Extend the same grace that God has extended to you.
- Look for the value and potential God placed in every person.
- Before judging someone, remember how patiently God has dealt with you.
- Pray: **“Lord, help me see this person through Your eyes.”**

3. Valuing People Requires Action

Scripture: Galatians 6:2

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

- Valuing people is not only about what we say.
- **It is demonstrated through how we respond to their needs.**
- Carrying burdens means:
 - Listening when someone is struggling
 - Praying with them
 - Encouraging them
 - Helping when possible
 - Walking with them through difficult seasons
- Sometimes the most meaningful ministry is a simple act of kindness.
- A phone call, encouraging word, helping hand, or listening ear can change someone's day.
- People need to feel:
 - Seen
 - Heard
 - Welcomed
 - Supported
 - Remembered
 - Loved
- When a church values people, it develops a culture that reflects the heart of Jesus.

Application

- Reach out to someone you have not spoken with recently.
- Notice the person who appears lonely or overlooked.
- Volunteer where people are being served.
- Offer practical help to someone carrying a burden.
- Tell someone directly: **"You matter to God, and you matter to us."**

What This Means for Our Church

- We will welcome people before they have everything figured out.
- We will value people regardless of their background.
- We will extend grace without compromising truth.
- We will care for people in both words and actions.
- We will help carry one another's burdens.
- We will create room for people to grow.
- We will be known for our love.

Conclusion

- People matter deeply to God.
- Jesus demonstrated their value by giving His life for them.
- If people matter to God, they must matter to His church.
- Loving people is not an optional ministry—it is central to our mission.
- When we value people, we reflect the character of Christ.
- A church that loves people becomes a place where lives can be healed, restored, and transformed.

Weekly Challenge

This week:

- Reach out to one person.
- Encourage someone who is struggling.
- Extend grace to someone difficult to love.
- Help carry someone's burden.
- Show someone through your actions that they matter.

We may not be able to help everyone, but everyone we encounter should be treated like they matter, because they matter to God.