

Series:	Date: <b>Mar. 19th 2017</b>
Topic: <b>Love Like Children of Christ</b>	Speaker: <b>Michael Kissel</b>

## WELCOME

This week Michael Kissel challenged us all on how we should be demonstrating Love like the Children of Christ.

For the ice breaker this week, share your answers to the following question: Are you more of a listener or a talker?

## WORSHIP

Start the worship time by encouraging people to share praises for what God has done in their life this past week. Sing worship songs from the Sunday services or select your own.

## WORD

- I. Spiritual Objective.** At the end of the discussion, members will:
- A.** Discuss that showing love and kindness is not optional but a command from Scripture.
  - B.** Talk about the different groups of people who we are called to love, and how we can show love to them.
- II. The Sermon Synopsis:**

This week Michael Kissel preached a challenging sermon about who we show love and kindness too. In Matthew 22, Jesus teaches the people that the greatest commandment is to Love God, and the second is to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The first is easy, the second is often so much harder. Michael reminds us that we are called to love four groups of people: strangers, enemies, the Church, and our families.

Each of these four groups have their own challenges. With strangers, we all have people that we turn a blind eye to or ignore. Our sense of justice and the need for judgement often prevents us from loving our enemies. With the Church, it becomes easy to let others serve us, and forget that we are all called to serve one another. Finally, with our families, those who are the closest to us have the greatest ability to hurt us and can be the hardest to love.

## The Text:

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”  
**(Matthew 22:37-40 NIV)**

## Discussion Questions

**III.** Showing kindness and love has never been optional for Christians. Matthew 22:39 reminds that after the command to love God, the second command is “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” *What does this command mean to you? Do we live as if showing kindness and love is optional? Why?*

**IV.** Michael mentioned that there are groups of people we must love more intentionally. One of those groups are strangers. It is easy to show kindness and love to those who are familiar to us, but God commands us to love strangers in the same way. We should not show partiality. *Where do we show partiality? Who do we tend to ignore? Why? How can we change and show kindness and love to strangers?*

**V.** Michael also reminded us that the Bible calls us to love our enemies. This is not always easy to do, sometimes because we don't want to admit there are those we view as enemies. *Do you have enemies? Where do you feel like the judge of others? How do we learn to let go of the desire to judge others?*

**VI.** The third group of people that we need to love more is the Church. This is not the building but the people of God. We are called to serve one another and help everyone grow towards holiness. Being present in the Church, and serving the Church is not optional, we are called to do so. *How are you loving and serving the church (the people)? Do you view church as something that is optional? Or something that is critical and should not be missed?*

**VII.** Finally, we are called to love our Family. Family can be one of the most difficult places to show the love of Christ, but it is one of the most important places we witness. *Do we forget our earthly family and only focus on our spiritual family? What is your witness to your family? How could it be improved?*

## WORK

- **Pray** and ask God to work within us and grow our hearts so that we can show love to others. Pray for opportunities to grow, to be stretched, and to increase your ability for love. Finally, ask for God to reveal who you need to show love to more, who are your blind spots, and who are you proclaiming judgement on.
- **In addition to the above prayer requests, please also pray for our Building Expansion Project (BEP):**
  - ❖ **Permits.** 1) Continue praying for our re-application to the Bldg. Dept. for the modification to our (CUP) Conditional Use Permit to be approved with our current plan. 2) Also pray that they will issue our grading permit as soon as the CUP is issued. 3) Finally, pray that we will be able to work with our architect, PVA, to help them complete their drawings to apply for our building construction permit.
  - ❖ **Architect.** Continue praying that our architect will work with our contractor in a design-assist partnership and provide the drawings that we need to move forward.
  - ❖ **Giving, Grants & Guaranteed Loan Commitment.** 1) Pray for the continued generous giving of our congregation toward the 3-year pledge and additional gifts as God provides. 2) Pray that God will grant us favor with the foundation that we are approaching for a grant. 3) Pray for wisdom and direction as we continue to seek a loan commitment to fund part of the construction costs.

- ❖ **Evaluation Meetings.** Pray for our BEP Committee meeting this Saturday, 3/25, to review and discuss our ministry priorities as a church with our elders.

### Announcements :

1. **PUSH Night of Prayer.** Fri, 3/24, 7:00pm. Come join us for an evening of meeting our God in prayer for the needs the church and individually.
2. **Workday Only (no Car Wash).** Sat, 4/8, 9:00am. Come out and help us clean-up and maintain our church in preparation for our Easter Services the following weekend.
3. **Good Friday Communion Service.** Fri, 4/14, 7:00pm. Let's take time to remember our Lord's sacrifice of crucifixion on the cross this evening.
4. **Easter Preparations.** Sat, 4/15, 9:00am. We need help setting up the church with extra chairs and tent, preparing food for the meals.
5. **Easter Sunday Services.** Sun, 4/16. Invite your friends and family to join us, "In Memory Of" Easter Sunday, and for the children in "Building Easter" and an Easter Egg Hunt after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Serving breakfast and lunch that day for our guests after both services.
6. **HOME Group Leaders Meeting.** Sun, 4/30, 12:00pm. Save the date!
7. **Membership Class.** Sun, 4/30, 12:00pm. Discover what it means to be a member of Leeward Community Church. Open to anyone 16 years and above.