

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday February 10, 2019. "More Love: The Harmony of Love".

A. Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk.

Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

B. Recap.

Sunday was our second Sunday of our "**More Love**" series, where we've been looking at what love really is, and how we can cultivate a life to grow our capacity to love more. Especially, to be able to love those outside of our circles, who we may not tend to think about loving on a regular basis.

Last week, Kal talked about; the beginning of being able to love others well starts with us. And it was a fairly extensive unpacking of the things that exist in our shadow side, (counseling term for those less wholesome traits within us), that would derail our ability to love. In order to love more, we have to find those things that block, inhibit our ability to love and root them out.

C. Sunday.

This past Sunday, Tami took us on a fascinating journey of; "*The Harmony of Love*". The basic premise is; **our ability to love others is to live in harmony, and shalom, with each other**. Shalom is the word for undivided, whole, and doesn't imply sameness or uniformity, but a beautiful blending of diversity and different.

Let's get our bearings first, and think about what harmony and wholeness looks like?

What does unity/harmony mean to you?

What does wholeness mean, and feel like to you?

How is unity different than uniformity?

What is it so difficult to keep from pushing uniformity rather than unity?

Ok, you survived the first barrage of questions.

D. Scripture.

The primary scripture used Sunday was **Psalm 133:1-3**. And the NLT translation was used because of the use of the word harmony in the passage. When you read this passage, try to find it in the NLT, to help you get a feel for the direction Sunday morning.

What did this passage say to you about the power of 'harmony' in our daily life?

Were there specific words, phrases, that touched you specifically? How so?

How can you see working towards harmony affect our relationship with God?

The primary point of this teaching and passage was the power of harmony to reflect the heart of God, his nature, his love for us, (which obviously is the source of our ability to 'love more'), and harmony's ability to draw people not close to God into a relationship with him.

If the people of God, those of us who call ourselves Christians, (little Christs), could grow in our ability and passion to be welcoming to those who are different, embrace diversity, individuality, uniqueness as a beautiful deliberate design by God, **imagine the irresistible force the church would be in the world**. How about we use the example of how all of the parts of the body works together, (kind of scriptural too huh?), to help us understand the intentional beauty and functionality built into creation. And Tami showed us in musical examples, of having all those different parts represented in the whole. Yes, unison is nice, acceptable when it comes to music. But there is nothing like a song where different parts are sung. The song is so much richer, fuller, more moving, when all the parts are represented and blend together for something bigger.

But as Tami shared, this only comes from this word we say over and over again. And that is **'intentionality'**. The ability to understand, receive, and practice this thing called harmony does not happen by accident. Not only does each person have to know what they can and do bring to the greater whole, but they also have to find and fully occupy that special place that only they can. This does not happen accidentally. Not only do we need all the voices, talents, abilities, beliefs, philosophies, practices, but we need them to be an active vital part of the greater whole.

Brainstorm some examples of how different parts, people, have to work together to make something bigger than they can all do separately work.

What has to happen for all the individuals to operate work in harmony?

What can get in the way, be a barrier, to harmony?

And a really tough question, that I want you to really wrestle with.

When there is disharmony, disunity, a push for uniformity, (sameness), what are things you can do to address and begin to work towards harmony again?

The corporate world calls this concept 'crowdsourcing'.

And basically the understanding of crowdsourcing, is that the more people brought into a task, create an understanding, and the greater the diversity, the closer you will get to the actual truth. This works in music especially. It doesn't matter if you can't sing, can't match pitch, (some of us don't know that we're not actually all that great at singing), the more people you have actually singing out loud, the closer you will get to the actual melody. **Because everyone singing together, no matter how far off they are, will produce the right notes**. This is such a beautiful truth.

So, in an understanding in the power of; "The Harmony of Love", what can YOU do to intentionally add to the overall beauty and richness of Harmony?

BE A VOICE!! BE YOUR VOICE!!!