

FOLLOW ME

THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLE



Sermon 10.4 • Love • Pastor Craig Smith

Icebreaker: What are some things that divide us as a nation, as Christians?

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

(John 13:34-35) Generally speaking, How would you rate your love towards your fellow brothers and sisters in the faith?

Two common barriers to loving others like Jesus...

☛ **Selfishness:** *What’s in it for me?* – “Do nothing out of selfish ambition...” **(Phil. 2:3a)**

☛ **Vanity:** *Who’s noticing me?* – “Do nothing out of...vain conceit.” **(Phil. 2:3b)**

Which barrier do you most identify with in keeping you from loving?

♀ **When we love God most, we love others best** – “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” **(1 John 4:7-8)**

...and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you... (Eph. 5:2, NAS)

Make a list of ways that Jesus loved us (*just as Christ loved you*).

Walking in godly love is...

- **Tangible in its demonstration** – “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” **(1 John 3:18)** – Identify some lovable actions you do and want to do more?
- **Selfless in its motive** – “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” **(Rom. 12:10)** – What might honoring look like as you seek to love others?

Love is not...self-seeking... (1 Cor. 13:4a, 5a)

- **Radical in its reach** – “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them...But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.” **(Luke 6:32, 35-36)** – What people group is the hardest for you to love, how could you reach out in love?
- **Redemptive in its affect** – “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” **(1 Peter 4:8)** - What person or group do you need to forgive?

Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs. (Prov. 10:12)

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)