



Series: Love in Action (Live by Faith at Christmas)

Title: Advent 4: The Whole Point of Christmas is True Love

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

December Scripture Memory: *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* **Romans 12:1-2, 9-10**

1. The present - Jesus came to reveal the love of God to us and invite us into the family of God.
2. The power - God transforms us by the power of the Holy Spirit and renewing our mind with truth so we can truly love (love Jesus, love Others, love You - JOY).
3. The purpose - We do not have to conjure up the love of Christ, we have to learn to let true love out (JOY) and not clog it up.

How to let true love flow: (vs. 9-13)

1. Abhor what is evil. (v. 9)
2. Fasten yourself to what is good (God and His Word). (v. 9)
3. Love the body of Christ as family. (v. 10)
4. Eagerly lead each other in honoring each other. (v. 10)
5. Zealously serve the Lord by fervently serving one another. (v. 11)
6. Persist in prayer through times of rejoicing, trials and tribulation. (v. 12)
7. Meet the needs of the body and race to show hospitality to all. (v. 13)

How to clog up love: (vs. 14-17)

1. Curse those who persecute you. (v. 14)
2. Rejoice when people you do not like suffer. (v. 15)
3. Think you are better than others and find ways to assert your dominance. (v. 16)
4. Pay people back who insult you or hurt you. (v. 17)
5. Only love people who do what you want or who can love you back. (vs. 18, 9)
6. Think that "being genuine" only means loving if you feel like it. (vs. 18, 9)
7. Try to only love a few people perfectly and neglect people outside your circle. (v. 18)

The way we let true love flow or clog it up reveals what we know and believe about the Gospel.
(vs. 18-21)

1. The Gospel reminds us that we are forgiven from our past and current sins.
2. The Gospel is the way we think of ourselves and others soberly.
3. The Gospel empowers us to genuinely love in the good and bad.
4. The Gospel shouts that God is the perfect Judge who can be trusted to make all things right.
 - a. God will pour His wrath out justly on all.
 - i. On Jesus on the cross for those who call upon Him for salvation.
 - ii. On the lost in hell who do not call upon Jesus for salvation.