



Love Is a Declaration of War

November 4, 2018 | WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH



Love. That Again?

- It turns out that love really is God's supreme standard for his people and it matters so much to him that he'll send a man back from the dead to tell us something we've heard 1,000 times before
- Can you think of another time in your life on this planet that we've needed it more?
- Email to friend: “When it comes to our political life the only thing on the menu is raw sewage.”
- Mark 12:28-34

Sabbath Mode on Modern Appliances



“On refrigerators with Sabbath Mode, activating this mode will turn off interior lights (or keep them always on and dimmed), control panel display, ice/water dispenser, sounds, icemaker, and any advanced features (ex. Door Alarm). The compressor will run on a timed defrost so it will not defrost based on the length or number of door openings. The door can be opened or closed without causing any lights, fans, switches, etc. to be turned on or off.”

[from the G.E. Owner’s Manual]

Love. Yes, That Again.

- Rabbi Hillel (100 BC) when asked by a student to summarize the whole law while standing on one leg: “What you yourself hate, do not do to your neighbor; this is the whole Law—the rest is commentary. Go and learn it!”
- Jesus’ double answer shows that love for God and love for humankind cannot be separated
- **1 John 4:21** MESSAGE

“The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You’ve got to love both.”

Love Is Not a Hallmark Card

- We are not talking about love as a concept, as a feeling we're supposed to have, nor even our best-effort attempts at loving, but a way of being that flows from the One who fills us with love
- Emil Brunner tells us love is not ‘something,’ a commodity, that we owe others: “I owe myself to my neighbors and therefore I am never done with them.” [Brunner, *The Letter to the Romans—A Commentary* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press), ©1938, p.111]

Love Is Not Safe. It's Sacrificial.

- The first occurrence of the word **love** in the Bible is found in Genesis 22:2. “Then God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.’” [NIV]
- The first use of the word **love** by Jesus occurs in John 3:16. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” [NIV]

Love Is Everything

- **Romans 5:5b** NIV

“God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

- **1 Corinthians 13:13** NLT

“Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.”

- Love. Miss it and nothing else we've gotten matters

Only Love Can Save Us

- Only love can save us. From ourselves. From fraudulent distortions of Christianity masquerading as the real thing. From the enemy of our souls
- Origen: “When you decide to keep the command of love and reject all other gods and lords and have no god or lord except the one God and Lord, you have declared war on all others without treaty.” [On Exodus, Homily 8.4.]
- *Love is a declaration of war on everything that is not love!*



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