

THE LOVE WE SHOW SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

The Bible gives us a healthy, challenging view of what it means to love each other. The Bible is full of many great examples and instruction as to how we as a church, and as individual are to go about showing love, specifically Christ's love in our life. So I would like to look at a few different scriptures this morning and how the people in these scriptures showed their love to those around them.

1. THE WORDS WE SPEAK

So let's go to the book of Colossians and see what we can find from that particular group of believers and this church about this whole aspect of showing love.

Colossians 4: 5 &6 give us the insight into what Paul wrote to them. He writes **WALK IN WISDOM TOWARD OUTSIDERS, MAKING THE BEST USE OF THE TIME. LET YOUR SPEECH ALWAYS BE GRACIOUS, SEASONED WITH SALT SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW HOW TO ANSWER EACH PERSON.**

One of the primary ways can show love to all those around is by the words we speak. There are a few key insights this verse of scripture provides for us in how we are to show love to all those around us, through what we say.

Paul says first of all let your speech always be gracious.

Prov 10:20a "The tongue of the just is as choice silver.

Prov 10: 21a The lips of the righteous feed many.

Proverbs 16:24 says GRACIOUS WORDS ARE LIKE A HONEYCOMB, SWEETNESS TO THE SOUL AND HEALTH TO THE BODY.

Secondly, Paul says it should be seasoned with salt. As you know salt adds taste and flavor. Salt also preserves. The words that you say are going to have a deep effect on those people or that person hearing it. It is going to be preserved in their hearts and minds for a

long time. When we think of flavoring our speech it means that we are flavoring or speaking the truth in love.

2. BY ACTS OF KINDNESS

I want to take you to another piece of scripture this morning. Acts 2:42-47.

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

There is a key verse in that passage that shows the love they had for each other as a group of believers and the love they had for those in their community. It is verse 45. **THEY WERE SELLING THEIR POSSESSIONS AND BELONGINGS AND DISTRIBUTING THE PROCEEDS TO ALL AS ANY HAD NEED**

This is not a new concept for us. We have heard this verse and have probably read this passage in the past. There were needy people back then, just as there are needy people today.

3. BY BEING WITH EACH OTHER

A third way we fulfill the LOVE WE SHOW is BY BEING WITH EACH OTHER. I want to take you to a third piece of scripture and that is found in I John 1.

Verse 7 of this chapter says **BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS HIS SON CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN.**

Notice how John says this to these believers. "But if **WE** walk in the light...", **WE** have fellowship with one another", "The blood of Jesus

His Son cleanses **US** from all sin.” John is talking about being together, being with each other. He doesn’t use the word you. He doesn’t imply that you are to do this by yourself. In fact he uses the word fellowship. This word **fellowship in the Greek is termed KOININIA. It means communion, togetherness. John is urging** those young believers as he teaches them what it means to live your life as Christian, to live it together. To be with fellow believers. To spend time with each other. To be in communion with each other. Now, how they would have done that then, and how we do that today looks different. We live in a different time, different society but yet the mandate is there before us to be together and to show the love of Christ to those around us. So how do we do that today? A couple of ways.

First of all by being in church with other. One of the great ways to fellowship or have koinonia with each other on a regular basis is to be in church. But it is not just the fact that you are in church. It is the fact that you actually interact with people.

Secondly, by being in a small group. I am going to highlight one of these small group options, the Life Group ministry for a few minutes. The Life Group ministry is set up at West London to facilitate getting you and me into a small group to learn how to live our life the way God intended for us to live. It enables you to use the gifts and talents God has given you in your life to serve. And provides an opportunity for you to support other members in your group as you talk about the ups and downs of life.

Being in a Life Group is not just about you. It is about encouraging and listening and ministering to those in the room with are you. It is an opportunity to show that love. It is about a group of people exploring the Bible together or a good biblical book that helps them grow in their faith. It is about a group of people serving together to reach out into the community of London and within this church family. Do you see the koinonia that can happen? Do you see the fellowship that can occur on a weekly basis? You can’t do your Christian life solely on your own. Christ never intended for that to happen. He meant for there to be a balance between those times of

personal reflection and study and those times when you need to be with other believers. They key.... get into a small and Make Known His Greatness by the love you show in that group.

4. HE FIRST LOVED US.

One more aspect that ties all of this together. We can only show our love to other people because of the love we have from Christ. **I John 4:19 sums all of this up where John writes WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.** The only reason we love, and show love is because of God. We only love because of the very truth that He first loved us.

And so let us stop and take a look at how we MAKE KNOWN THE GREATNESS OF GOD by the love we show. Are people seeing God's greatness in our lives? Do they hear it in the words we speak, the acts of kindness we do and the opportunities we take to fellowship? Perhaps this morning you see an area or two or maybe three that you need to work on in your heart. Don't leave here this morning thinking.... I need to change in this area but you don't do anything about it. Act on it. Make some changes. Talk to some people who can help you.

And most of all let us all remember how much God loves you and me. Let us continue as individuals, a people and a church to grow together in this.