

Enlightenment Worship: Tuesday Night Live!

Series: WWLD? What Would Love Do?

3/24/15

Principle Passage:

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 New International Version (NIV)

13 If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Principle Resources:

Love. Period (Rudy Rasmus)

Crazy Love (Francis Chan)

Love Never Quits!

Let's recap previous chapters,

Chapter 1: Love is Diverse, but Not Divided

Pastor's Point: Love takes every opportunity to unite, unify and **NOT** divide.

Chapter 2: Love has NO Conditions

Love has no conditions and is to be without limits.

Chapter 3: Love Replaces Fear with Faith

Faith releases love that overcomes Fear

"Winners never quit, quitters never win!"

Love accepts unconditionally.

Unconditional acceptance is a business concept that seems lost in the church.

Cash is cash!

A Time to Quit and a Reason to Stay

Jesus said that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. He didn't say we had to love the neighborhood.

It is entirely possible to quit a job, an alliance, a position and to continue to love a person and to stay in relationship with that person!

Kindness, generosity, mercy and LOVE must continue to flow!

Quit the task that estranges you FROM God, but maintain the relationship in order to LOVE the person to God!

"We must accept that God has people on various timetables when it comes to His work in their lives."

The Position, Power and Perseverance of Love

Patients are often required to show patience

The Position of Love---Waiting

Waiting is a position, a state of being until what we want appears or comes to pass. God often calls us to wait for what we desire from Him- even if our desire is good and is according to His promises and will.

Why does God ask us to wait?

He doesn't want us wasting our energy seeking the things we desire.

Matthew 6:33 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³³But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Pastors Point: Instead of asking God to give us what **WE want**, we should ask Him to give us what **HE wants** us to have!

The Power of Love----Humility

Humility is NOT weakness!

Just because people don't respond to stupidity doesn't mean they DON'T hear it, it may mean they are ignoring IGNORANCE!

A humble person is in the right position to see miracles and reap exceptional rewards. Humility is power under control, power under God's control!

Pseudo humility is **NOT** God's humility!

We think leaders must have a "**hit you over the head**" style to display true power and authority.

There is no lasting value in displaying our wounds so that we bleed all over other people.

There is lasting value in humbly acknowledging that we are wounded, trusting God to bind up our wounds, making us whole, and encouraging others to do the same.

The Perseverance of Love---Endurance

Persevering love produces no regrets, because it is always the right choice.

At the heart of perseverance is **FORGIVENESS!**

Forgiveness and Perseverance Go Together

Exercise: Count the sins against others **YOU have committed** today in your thoughts, words or deeds. Think of the things **YOU know are contrary** to what you know are God's purposes for your life.

Now think about how many times God has forgiven YOU-just today.

If you have sinned against Him 8,9,10 times or 10 x10.....how many times has God beaten you with His sovereign wooden stick in order to force you back into submission and compliance?

1 John 1:9 New International Version (NIV)

°If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

It's one thing to judge behavior, but we are **NEVER** to judge people!

To judge is to pass sentence on a person; it is to take on the role of issuing a sentence. That's God's role, our role is to point a person toward God and to LOVE!

Closing Thoughts: There is little to be gained by holding onto resentments and bitterness, bitterness makes you barren. Release the offender to God's decisions and then continue to tell the person about Jesus love with a "tempered attitude". Trouble is, we don't want to speak, talk to, be around those that we feel have offended us. What if God felt that way?

Answer the questions on page 62 then you can quit loving or.....NOT!