

Sermon Notes

Things That Matter: Beautiful Produce in an Age of Crop Failure

#3 – “On Loving” – Galatians 5:22

I. Introduction

A. Electricity is a modern marvel.

1. Pastor Don’s limited understanding from model railroading.
2. An illustration of how love becomes the current to make all of the other fruits of the spirit mature.
3. Paul – Colossians 3:14

B. Love is basic to the Christian life.

1. Matthew 22:37-40 (neighbors)
2. Adopted into a brotherhood – Eph. 1:5; I John 4:20-21

II. Deeper understanding

A. Premarital counseling

1. Use of I Corinthians 13:4-7
2. Jerry Bridges rephrasing of I Corinthians 13
3. Love is the bus wire (note illustration above).
 - a. I Peter 4:8

B. A case study

1. David’s thoughts about Moses.
 - a. Acts of God vs. the ways of God
2. Key texts
 - a. Exodus 33:18-23

b. Exodus 34:6-7a

1. Apparent at the temple dedication – 2 Chron. 7:2-3

C. Practical application

1. What does love look like?
2. Note the Apostle John’s point.
 - a. I John 4:7-12
 - b. “Love one another” is repeated three times.
 - c. Three reasons for love
 1. The very nature of God is love
 - a. Boice
 2. The gift of Jesus, verse 9
 - a. II Corinthians 9:5
 - b. Paul – Romans 8:31-32, 38-39
 3. God’s present design, verse 12
 - a. God’s supreme apologetic in the world

III. Closing thoughts

- A. Love is most describable when we are called upon to forgive in the face of repeated injury.
 1. Love does not take into an account of a wrong suffered.
- B. God forgives us at great cost, and we must do the same.
 1. Foretold in Isaiah 53:5, 8-9
- C. Be careful expecting justice.
 1. Do you want God to act this way to you?
- D. How can I forgive if the injuries continue to happen?
 1. How does God forgive you for the injuries done by you?