

Sermon Notes -

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

- Question – “What is my #1 goal in life?”
- The #1 goal in our life will our “dominant life principle”
- God says that our #1 goal in life should be to learn how best to love Him and others.
- “Let love be your greatest aim.” (1 Corinthians 14:1 LB)
- Life should be about learning how to love God and others better.
- Jesus - “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength . . . and love your neighbor as yourself. There are no commands more important than these.” (Mark 12:30-31 NCV)
- Gaining accomplishments, possessions and popularity is nothing without love.
- “Everything you do must be done with love.”
(1 Corinthians 16:14 NLT)
- Question – “What is my definition of love?”

THE BASICS OF LOVE The Bible Teaches Us That:

- WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD LOVES US
- “Love comes from God . . . for God is love.” (1John 4:7-8)
- If God wasn’t loving, there would be no love in the universe.
- “We love because God first loved us.” (1 John 4:19 NIV)
- If we realize how much God loves us, we will be able to better love Him and others.
- “We know and rely on the love God has for us.”
(1 John 4:16a NIV)
- LOVE IS A CHOICE AND A COMMITMENT
- “Choose to love the Lord your God . . . and commit yourself to Him.” (Deuteronomy 30:20 NLT)
- LOVE IS AN ACTION AND NOT JUST AN EMOTION
- “Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:18 NIV)
- Acting in love when we don’t feel like it is the highest form of love.
- It’s always easier to “act our way into a feeling” than it is to “feel our way into an action” (Revelation 2:4-5).
- LOVE IS A SKILL WE CAN DEVELOP
- “Dear friends, let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know Him better.” (1 John 4:7 LB)
- “Practice these things and devote yourself to them, in order that your progress may be seen by all.”
(1 Timothy 4:15 TEV)
- LOVE IS A HABIT WE CAN PRACTICE CONTINUALLY
- We can’t claim to be a loving person unless we are habitually loving towards others.
- Jesus – “If you only love those who love you what credit is that to you?” (Luke 6:32 NIV)
- Being loving towards others needs to become a lifestyle for us.

- “Continue to love each other with true Christian love.” (Hebrews 13:1 NLT)
- It takes approximately 6 weeks to establish a habit in our lives.
- If we want to have healthy and loving relationships we’ve got to have a periodic “checkup.”
- “Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don’t drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.” (2 Corinthians 13:5 Msg)

40 DAYS OF LOVE PRE-TEST - ASSESSING OUR RELATIONSHIPS

· Parents 1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

· Marriage Prospects (If you’d like to marry) 1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

· Spouse 1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

· Relative 1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

· Coworkers 1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

· Neighbors 1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

· Different/Difficult 1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

· Children 1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

· Jesus - “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples.” (John 13:35 NLT)

· Question – “Do the people around me know that I’m a follower of Jesus by the love they see radiating from me?”

HOW TO BECOME GREAT AT RELATIONSHIPS

To Become Great (Or Better) In Our Relationships

We Must Focus On:

· GROWING IN GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

- We will only bring positive change to ourselves and our relationships when we truly focus on experiencing those changes.

· LEARNING HOW JESUS LOVED OTHERS

- Implementing what we learn from the 40 DAYS OF LOVE messages and The Relationship Principles of Jesus book (by Tom Holliday) will help us learn to love like Jesus loves.

· PRACTICING THE SKILLS WE LEARN

- During 40 DAYS OF LOVE we are going to be practicing what we are learning.

- Involvement with a Life Group will enable us to learn about love and relationships from others, and practice some of the relationship skills we are learning.

· DEVELOPING THE HABITS NEEDED FOR LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

- It takes approximately 40 days of “application” to develop a habit.

· TRUSTING GOD TO HELP US BECOME MORE LOVING

- We can only become more “loving” if we allow the “Lord of love” to fill our hearts and lives with His love and principles of love.

- “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13 NKJV)

· At the end of our lives we will be judged by God by how well we “lived” and “loved.”

· “This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love.” (Philippians 1:9 NCV)

· Question – “What is the Lord communicating to me through this message, and what will be my response to Him?”