

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 3 Issue 7



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

Our Love is a Witness

Sermon by Trent Thomas

February 12, 2017

Today Trent continued our series titled "What's love got to do with it?" By now we should all realize that the answer is everything! When Jesus was asked to name the greatest commandment, he responded that all of the commandments could be summarized as follows: Love God and love people.

Today's message focused on the fact that love is a witness. In John 13:34-35 Jesus commanded us to love each other JUST as He loved us. In fact, He said that love would be THE characteristic that would tell the world that we are His disciples. One of the core values at Destiny is multi-culturalism. We have a deep desire to show the world that we can truly love each other despite our differences.

Destiny Church has a unique mantle to carry in that we are called to be bridge builders. We build bridges between ethnicities, generations, and socio-economic groups. When Jesus commanded His disciples to "love one another" He didn't mean people just like us, or people who are easy to love. He meant all believers. Our unique challenge at Destiny Church is to love one another cross-culturally in a time when our nation is divided politically, ethnically, and ideologically.

Trent suggested that there are 3 ways that we can uniquely respond to Christ's command to love one another: humility, hospitality and unity. As we practice these responses repeatedly, the world (i.e. our tri-county area) will see a community where love REALLY happens. A place where we love not only in spite of our differences, but BECAUSE of our differences, we thrive in Christ-like relationships. He also warned us of the threats: Our Politics, Our Personal Preferences, Our Prejudice and Our Pride.

Jesus' commandment to His followers to "love one another" is even more challenging when we think of the cross-cultural implications of doing so. It will take obedient humility, hospitality, and unity for us to practice this kind of love for one another.

E-CHECK: EXPERIENCING CHRIST-LIKE RELATIONSHIPS

READING AND REFLECTION:

Study John 13:34-35. Is it significant to you that Jesus called what he was asking a “commandment.” Who are the “one another’s” that He is commanding us to love? Why? Is it meaningful that he used the Greek word “agape?”

According to 2 Chronicles 7:14, humility is a key to God being able to work. Why do you think this is true?

How does hospitality (1 Peter 4:9) help us to carry out the command to “love one another?”

In Philippians 1:27, Paul commands us to “conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of The Gospel.” What is the connection between our unity and our conduct?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What is most challenging to you when it comes to interacting with people of a different ethnicity?

Where did you fit in the “Approach to Differences” meter that Pastor Trent mentioned in the sermon (Differences are either Hated, Tolerated, Accommodated, or Appreciated)?

How would you know whether or not you have elevated your political views/affiliation above your allegiance to Christ and the bible?

What are you willing to do in order to build bridges with those of ethnic, generational, or socio-economic differences in a time of such division in our nation?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

Try to take the time this week to sit down with someone from Destiny who is different from you. Discuss the sermon and use its content to help build a new, Christ-honoring relationship.

KEY POINT:

Jesus’ commandment to His followers to “love one another” is even more challenging when we think of the cross-cultural implications of doing so. It will take obedient humility, hospitality, and unity for us to practice this kind of love for one another.

RESOURCES:

1 Corinthians 13

“Right Color Wrong Culture—A Leadership Fable” by Bryan Loritts

