

Introduction

Series

- 1) Central / priority
- 2) today - our Lifestyle
- 3) Loving the Unlovable
- 4) Drives us - should

18 Scripture references - all New Testament

First is Eph. 5:1-2

I. Our Pathway

1. Walk in love - lifestyle

- pathway
- “walk” - in verse 2
- rule of thumb
- example - what would Jesus do? - sometimes we don’t know

2. Not a thing we “have” but a way we “think”

- change our thinking
- attitude
- Rom. 12:1-2 - don’t be conformed...

3. Along the pathway - Pathway principles

- love/ law - Gal 5:14
- law thinking
- right and wrong - but attitude is just as important - maybe more
- Rom 13:8 - fulfilled
- verse 9 - summed up
- verse 10 - love fulfills the law
- love covers a multitude of sins - 1 Pet 4:8
- shoot for love - th sins will take care of themselves
- speak the truth in love - Ephesians
- let love abound - 1 Thess. 3:12

II. Relating to Others

1. !!). You:

- a physical person - body
- a mental person
- an emotional person
 - angers
 - fears
 - worries
- a spiritual person - heart matters, relate to God, matters
- a social person - others
 - see it
 - at church
 - family

- school
- work place
- pets help with social needs - emotional needs
- we need each other
- 2. A focus on people/ relationships
 - not just self
 - Jesus gave Himself - to people
 - church is a people business
 - sermons? - no people
 - music? - no people who hear and sing the music
- 3. Examples of love in action:
 - love and meat (Rom. 14)
 - give up meat lest you offend others
 - by love serve one another - Ga. 5:13-14
 - love involves giving - "Try Giving Yourself Away" - David Dunn... a "noticer"
 - love is costly and expensive - time energy, and money
 - cannot love others and be the same
 - love is risky
 - Good Samaritan
 - hung out with sinful people
 - neighbor - who is my neighbor
 - why truly loved? -priest? Levite?
 - Ex- loving others sows seed along the pathway

III. The Walk of Jesus

1. His lifestyle of love
 - touched the leper
 - invited Himself to the home of Zacchaeus
 - loved Lazarus
 - immense compassion
 - spent most of His time with people
 - !!). withdrew to be with God
 - came to seek and save the lost
 - our judgmental attitudes
 - our lack of compassion or mercy
 - our lack of good and loving deeds
 - our constant criticisms - no love
2. He loved
 - Voluntarily - he wanted to - not because commanded
 - Sacrificially - gave it all - withheld nothing - count or measure of love
 - Intentionally
 - just happen? - make love your aim
 - a goal
3. That's love:
 - holding children (blessing them) that's love

-finding Peter - denied him - that's love
-offering the sop to Judas - I see it - one more chance - that's love
-nailed hand - thinking love?
 -coffee cup love?
 -I'm gonna love...
Those who love have the scars to prove it
 -gonna cost you to love - not a game

New Testament tells a Love Story