

The Greatest Gift

The Gifts of God - Week 2 (10-26-22)

1 Corin. 13:13

Things that keep us from sharing God's Love.

I. Not experiencing God's love for ourselves

A. What keeps us from experiencing God's love for ourselves

1. Self Condemnation

- a) Romans 8:1 - condemnation = The state of being condemned. Officially declared unfit for use.
- b) Our value is not based on our performance but on God's Payment.
- c) By condemning our selves we are trumping God's grace in our life.
(1) "...ye are fallen from grace." Gal. 5:4

2. Worldly understanding of love

- a) We have all had bad experiences with the world's version of "love". We mustn't allow those experiences to influence our understanding of God's love.
- b) What this world calls love is far different from God's love.
(1) requirements, feelings, off and on, unpredictable, unreliable...
(2) God's love = 1 Corin. 13:4-8

3. Stop pursuing God and His love

- a) There are two sides to love. It is given AND received.
- b) Sometimes we forget how desperately we need God and His love, so we gradually stop pursuing Him.
- c) "Follow after Love..." 1 Corin. 14:1
- d) It's a process to know the breadth, length, depth, and height of God's love.
(1) Eph. 3:18

II. loose sight of (or never knew) the mission

A. Amount of Christians that don't know the great commission.

B. The "life Goal" of the christian

- 1. Matt. 28:18-20 - Evangelism, Baptism, and training
- 2. This is how the early church grew so fast and spread so far.
 - a) Acts 2:41-42
 - b) They went far beyond just casually mentioning Jesus to their neighbor or coworker.
- 3. The Great Commission is a command that is not optional
 - a) This is a life mission that should be fully embraced and esteemed as a very high and honorable calling.
(1) "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15
- 4. We are ambassadors - 2 Corin. 5:20

- a) An ambassador is placed somewhere for the sole purpose of representation!
 - (1) They continue living their lives in this foreign location but only for the purpose of their presence is to represent the authority that they were commissioned by.

III. Selfish living

- A. We can get so caught up in living our own life that we forget about the needs of others.
 - 1. We see the value of the gospel in our own life, but fail to see its value for other people.
- B. Refusing to love the people that are hard to love.
 - 1. By doing this you are refusing to be the avenue by which someone else receives the love of God. Deeming them not worthy of God's love.
 - a) They aren't worth the risk of losing that relationship, they aren't worth the risk of feeling awkward, the risk of starting an argument, risk of looking foolish, the risk of not being well received, etc.
 - b) Or they aren't worth the effort of forgiving and mending a relationship.
 - (1) The seriousness of unforgiveness - Matt. 6:14-15 & 18:21-35

IV. Forgetting

- A. We forget what we have been forgiven of.
 - 1. We must never allow what others do to us overshadow what we have been forgiven of.
- B. We tend to remember to pack the love of God with us when we go to church but forget to pack it for other outings like work, the gas station, home, etc.
- C. There was a reason God told the Israelites to put God's word in their heart, teach it to their children, talk about it at meals, put it on their hand, on their foreheads, on their door posts, on their gates... Deut. 6:4-9
 - 1. We must remember what God has done for us!
 - a) 2 Peter 1:8-10 and 12-15
 - (1) they already knew these truths and were established in them, but Peter still felt it necessary to keep them in remembrance!