

Sunday Sermon Notes

"Incarnational Love"

Remembering our "Game Plan"

"Making Christ-like Disciples by
celebrating, loving, serving, bringing"

The importance of love for the Christian:

It is central, essential, transformational

Introducing "incarnational"

It means: God revealing himself in the form of flesh
Jesus is the supreme form of incarnation
Incarnation continues through Jesus' disciples

Incarnation today has two important qualities:

It is corporately experienced in the church
It is individually expressed through people

Incarnational love means:

We love like Jesus loved

It always goes first
It is completely unconditional
It is painfully sacrificial
It miraculously transforms lives

We love in Jesus' place

It is an awesome responsibility
It is a great privilege
It brings complete joy

Most people will not:

Read the Bible
Come to church
Listen to a sermon

What if the only Jesus people see.... is the Jesus people see in me?

Digging Deeper

Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion

Reviewing the Sermon:

What do you think of the idea that when Christians love, they are showing the love of God to those around them?

How does knowing that God is depending on our love to show His love affect your motivation to love?

Which of the qualities of love do you think is the most important for us to have? Which are the most difficult?

Bible Study: Philippians 2:1-11

Discussion Questions

(Remember that not all questions must be used)

This passage has sometimes been called the "kenosis hymn." The word, kenosis, means emptying, and refers to the idea the Jesus as God's Son "made himself nothing" or "emptied" himself as an expression of humility and love for us. This passage teaches a lot about what Jesus did for us by coming into the world, but the emphasis of this study is about how we are to follow his example by being "like-minded."

What are the things Paul believes should encourage us to be like Jesus? How do you think these things are able to encourage us?

Why do you think Paul says that being like-minded with Christ will make his joy complete?

In what ways are we to be "like-minded"?

What types of behavior indicate we are acting with “selfish ambition” or “vain conceit”? How does considering “others better than ourselves” prevent this problem?

In what ways do you think we should look to the interests of others? How can we do this without meddling or intruding on the privacy of others?

Paul says our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. How would you define the attitude of Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus “considered equality with God something to be grasped”? What would it have meant for him to “grasp” it?

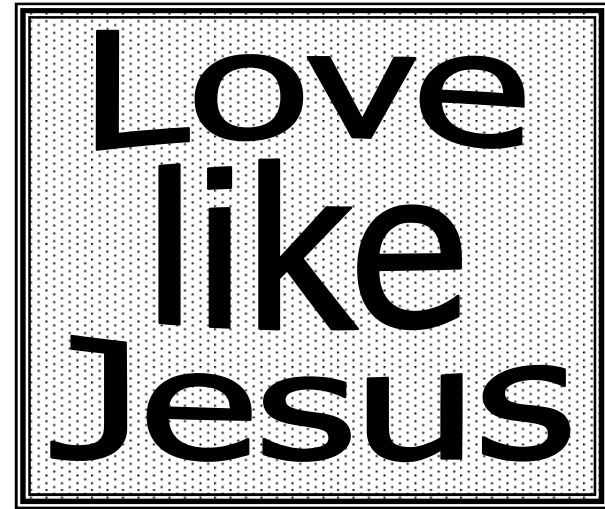
What is the significance of Jesus “taking the very nature of a servant”? What does it mean that he was “being made in human likeness”?

Note: Some have misinterpreted Paul’s use of the words “likeness” and “appearance” as suggesting Jesus only “seemed” to become a man, but really didn’t. In the context, however, this is not true, as doing so would have been an attitude of “hypocrisy”, the very attitude Paul was teaching against.

In what way does Jesus’ death on the cross indicate his humility? What did God do as a result of his obedience? What will ultimately happen because of this?

How do you think we are supposed to show the same type of attitude as Jesus? What are some specific things we should do to demonstrate this?

Prayer Time: Together as God to help you have the same attitude as Christ Jesus and for Him to show you ways to do that.



John 15:9-17

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Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at
www.middletownnaz.com