

"Love, or Else!"

Some necessary connections:

We love God by loving others
If we do not love others, we do not love God
To be a Christian requires love

Some necessary distinctions:

Jesus took the job of being judge away
Yet that is what we are inclined to do
Jesus commanded that we love each other
Yet that is what we are reluctant to do

Some necessary clarification:

Love does not mean like
Love does not mean approval of behavior
Love does not mean agreement of ideas
Love does not mean automatic trust

Some necessary behaviors:

Treat everyone like an enemy by
Blessing them: kind words
Doing good: kind acts
Praying for them: kind wishes

Some necessary results:

The church will be a safe place
The church will be a saving place
The church will be a transforming place
The church will be a growing place

Some necessary questions:

How loving have I experienced the church to be?
What have I contributed to the church's love?
Who does God want me to love today?

1 John

2:7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

3:10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

16 God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. NIV

Matthew 5:44-45

44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; NKJV

Do you have a question for Pastor Rogers about the sermon this morning? You are welcome to text your question during the message. He will either answer your question to the entire congregation at the end of the service or send you a personal response later today. His texting number is 765-620-3481.



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What is Twitter?

Twitter is a social networking service that allows you to share status updates with friends. It helps you share what you are thinking and doing with others. We use Twitter to send mobile updates from our services and enable you to interact with us during services. With Twitter, you can keep up with what's happening when you can't be here, and let us know what you are thinking when you are.

How does Twitter work?

When you send twitter an update, that status goes out to all your "followers." If you follow Middletownnaz, you will get our updates about the services either online or on your cell phone. When you reply to those messages, you send out a status update to your followers, including us.

How do I sign up?

Signing up is easy. Simply text "follow middletownnaz" (without the quotes) to 40404. If you have an account, you will become our follower and get our updates on your phone. If you don't, it will prompt you to create a new username. Just reply to that message with a username, and you're all set up.

How do I manage my account?

Go to <http://twitter.com> to set up your account and set options like protecting your status updates so only friends can see them. Just make sure you accept us as your friend!

How much does it cost?

Twitter is free, but standard text messaging rates apply, so make sure you have a plan that provides enough texts a month.

How do I stop getting updates?

Simply send "Off" (without the quotes) to 40404. You will have to send it twice to turn off all messages to your phone.

Sermon
Notes

August 15, 2010

Matthew 5:44-45

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Pastor Philip C. Rogers

Middletown
Church of the Nazarene
Middletown, Indiana

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