

**Obeying the Call of Our Master:  
The Power and Practice of our Mission**

John 13:34–35; 1 Peter 3:14–15

January 4, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

**I. Introduction**

A. Children’s Sermon: (Worship is Submission & Service)

B. Why is Worship Central to Missions?

1. Worship is the Goal of Our Mission  
(Matt. 28:16, 20; John 4:23)

“Missions exists because worship doesn’t” – John Piper

2. Because **God** Saves...

**1 Corinthians 2:12–14**

<sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but ***taught by the Spirit***, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

C. Jesus Saves through His Body (Eph. 4:13)

**Key Idea**

*Jesus speaks to the lost through his disciples. He marks them with a spiritual love for one another and a God-confident boldness in the world.*

**II. God’s Love in Us**

**John 13:34–35**

<sup>34</sup> **A new commandment** I give to you, that you ***love one another***: *just as I have loved you*, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> ***By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.***”

## 1 John 3:14; 4:19–20

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, *because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.* ... <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

## 2 Corinthians 5:14–15

<sup>14</sup> For **the love of Christ controls us**, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might *no longer live for themselves* but *for him* who for their sake died and was raised.

[Against] the wisdom of this age, Paul tells us that the body of Christ is not just a voluntary association for realizing my dream of “belonging” or a place where I can assert my unique qualities. Christ’s body is not a stage for my performance, but an organism into which I’ve been inserted by the Spirit, by a miracle of grace. <sup>1</sup>

### A. A Humble Love

## Philippians 2:1–8

<sup>1</sup> So *if there is any* encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, *any* participation in the Spirit, *any* affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by *being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.* <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in **humility** count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> *Have this mind* among yourselves, *which is yours in Christ Jesus,* <sup>6</sup> who, ... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

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<sup>1</sup> Horton, Michael S. (2014-10-07). Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World (p. 93). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

Where the first Adam sought to break free of his created rank and ascend to the throne of God, the last Adam — who is God in his very nature — left his throne and descended to our misery. ... While the first Adam launched a “meet you at the top” philosophy of life, Jesus Christ says to the world, “I’ll meet you at the bottom.” ... Our passion for life and achievement and our desire to strive toward a daring goal are essentially hardwired into us by God. What has changed since the fall is the direction of this drive. Unhinged from its proper object — God’s glory and our neighbor’s good — our love becomes self-focused; our holy passions become vicious, driving us away from God’s approaching steps and away from each other. <sup>2</sup>

## B. Gifts to Use for Love

### 1 Corinthians 12:7

<sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit *for the common good*.

### 1 Corinthians 13:1–3

<sup>1</sup> *If I speak* in the tongues of men and of angels, ***but have not love***, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

<sup>2</sup> And *if I have prophetic powers*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, ***and if I have all faith***, so as to remove mountains, ***but have not love***, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> *If I give away all I have*, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, ***but have not love***, I gain nothing.

## III. Prepare to Answer Questions (The Message Matters)

### 1 Peter 3:13–15

<sup>13</sup> Now who is there to harm you if you *are zealous for what is good*? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts ***honor Christ the Lord as holy***, always ***being prepared to make a defense*** to anyone who asks you for *a reason for the hope that is in you*; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid. (p. 88).

- A. Deliberate God-Confidence: (Christ alone is holy; biblical 'hope')
  
- B. Be Zealous for what is Good...
  
- C. Prepare a Defense
  - 1. Public Worship
  - 2. Private Worship
  - 3. Training
  - 4. Boldness... Yet...

**Key Idea**

*Through deliberate worship, cultivate a confidence in God's ability to speak through our lives and his message.*