

Theme: Our core values are powered by prayer - they are warmed, directed and united by love.

Introduction: Looking for the "really nice people"

I. Covered In Love

A. Who we are

1. His chosen ones: Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Deuteronomy 26:18; Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 2:4-9
- To be like his son; not like me
2. Holy
3. Beloved: Deuteronomy 7:7; 4:37; Ephesians 1:5; 2:4
4. Dead to sin: 2:20; 3:1

B. Who we are to be

1. "Put off" the old self - and must "put on" the new.
2. Put on Christ: Romans 13:14
3. Put on Love: 1 Corinthians 13; John 13; Ephesians 5:2, 25
- The strongest positive expression of personal relationship

II. Love as a Covering

A. Worship - love for God

1. Response to the love of God
 - a. Old Testament expression
- Stronger than a mother's love (Isaiah 49:15; 66:13)
- Chosen Ones (Deuteronomy 7:6-8; Hosea 11)
 - b. New Testament expression (John 17:26)
2. Response to the command of God (Matthew 22:37)
3. The expression of our love for God
 - a. The invitation to worship? (Psalm 95:6, 7)
 - b. Response of worship? (Romans 5:5)
- True worship is driven by love
 - c. Worship without love?
- External vs. internal
 - d. Worship with love, in love, born of love?
- Divine synergism

NOTE: The power of worship is derived (in part) from the prayer and praise that God has ordained for us to raise - upholding our worship of Him. The warmth of worship, the direction of worship is driven by love.

B. Fellowship - love for one another

1. The household of God?
2. Loving the household of God (John 13:35; Romans 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 4:8)

NOTE: Without love directing those relationships the wonder of that fellowship can quickly disappear (as many of us have experienced).

C. Discipleship - love for the Truth

1. The command

- Instruction (Matthew 28:20)
- Maturity (Ephesians 4)
- 2. The goal?
 - Love! (1 Timothy 1:5; John 17:17, 23)
- D. Witness – love for the lost
 - 1. The command (Acts 1:8)
 - 2. Duty won't do it (Luke 15; Philippians 2:17; 2 Samuel 23:15)
 - 3. I once was lost
- E. Mercy - love for the poor
 - 1. Loving our neighbors
 - Jesus takes away the limits (Luke 10; Leviticus 19:18))
 - Love the sojourner (Deuteronomy 10:19)
 - 2. Identity crisis
 - Can I identify with the poor - or am I too far removed?

III. Conclusion: The Power of Love

- A. Love binds all this together. In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.
 - As the active expression of saving faith (Galatians 5:6)
 - As the primary fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)
 - As the supreme Christian grace (1 Corinthians 13)
 - The sum of all the commandments (Romans 13:9-10)
- B. It can cover us
 - We must be clothed with it
 - And cultivate it
- C. Bringing unity/harmony