

Signs of Life
Colossians 1:3-5
Pastor Conley

Review:

We all preach. The way we live preaches. The way we live either demonstrates that the gospel is alive and powerful or that it is weak and dead. In these few verses, the apostle Paul is noting how people have been changed by the gospel, not just what kind of church building they go to or how many programs their children have.

A life that is changed by the gospel is marked by faith, love, and hope. Our faith is in Jesus Christ, our love is for all the saints, and our hope is in heaven. These traits are essential defining traits for all of God's children. We aren't left with the option of not possessing them. Others should be able to look at you and see "Signs of Life."

Application:

1. How is "faith" different than a "wish" or an "ascent?" (Remember, Pastor Conley taught us that even demons ascent.)
2. Love is often called a "fruit" of the Christian life. Why use the word "fruit?"
3. Is love feeling or doing? (See I Cor 13)
4. On what basis do unbelievers get to judge us? (Jn 13:34-35)
5. Pastor Conley said, "Scripture teaches that the man who does not love is lost." Explain this. Use I John 2:9+10.
6. Pastor also said that this kind of love doesn't happen by "trying harder." Who is the only person to love perfectly? Whose love is the only one's worth offering to others?
7. How do you display love? How is it clear to other that you are a Christian based on the way you interact with others? If someone followed you for a week, would they know you were a Christian because of the way you loved others?
8. In what do you hope? Is your hope laid up in heaven? Do you believe the truth of the gospel? Do you value what lies ahead more than what you have currently? Are you more interested in the stuff of this earth than the reward of eternity? Would your best friends say that of you? Why or why not?