
SERMON NOTES November 1, 2020

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

John 13:31-38
As I Have Loved You
Pastor Mike

- I. Jesus' _____ of love
- a. Jesus is glorified in the _____
 - b. Jesus _____ that we could _____
- II. The challenge of _____ Jesus' gift of grace
- a. Our natural instinct is to believe we can _____
 - b. God drives us _____ by exposing _____
- III. The _____ that flows from _____ God's love
- a. How is the command to love _____?
 - 1. The new _____ of our love
 - 2. The new _____ for love
 - b. Jesus calls us to _____
 - c. We grow in love by growing in _____

Closing challenge;

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In John 13:31-32 Jesus, speaking of his upcoming death on the cross said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him." Anyone who understands what was involved in a death on the cross would agree that it is arguably the most horrendous and disgraceful death possible. How could Jesus talk about the cross being glorious?
2. The Bible teaches us that God revealed and demonstrated his perfect love in Jesus Christ.
 - a. If Jesus' life and ministry was the perfect expression of God's love, why did the majority of the people he came to love respond to him with rejection and hostility instead of with love and appreciation?
 - b. Do you think that the majority of people whom heard and saw Jesus understood that Jesus and his ministry was the ultimate expression of God's love? Why or why not?
 - c. What can or should we learn of followers of Christ about the nature of God's love from Jesus' example, and what does it look like to follow his example as we interact with an unbelieving world?
3. After telling the disciples "where I am going you cannot come" (speaking of his death on the cross for our sins), Peter responded, "*Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.*" Instead of accepting Jesus' grace and what Jesus was doing for him, Peter was focused on what he would do for Jesus.
 - a. Why did Peter respond to Jesus in this way?
 - b. In his message Pastor Mike said that all of us have a natural instinct that causes us to believe that aren't that bad, and that we can learn God's love. What did he mean by that? Do you agree? Why or why not?
 - c. When Jesus then predicted Peter's denial, what do you think was the tone of Jesus' response to Peter?
4. In John 13:34 Jesus told his disciples (and tells us) "*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.*" The command to love one another wasn't a new command, but was given by Moses in Leviticus 19:18, and was repeated by Jesus as the part of the great commandment.
 - a. In what ways was this commandment a new commandment?
 - b. How should this command transform the motivation for our love?
 - c. Is Jesus calling us to do loving things or to be loving in our character? What is the difference?
5. In his message Pastor Mike taught that our ability to love others is directly related to the degree that we have understood and accepted God's love for us. If we really understand and accept God's love for us, we cannot help but be loving toward others.
 - a. What did he mean by this? Is a lack of love on our part towards others always rooted in a lack of understand and acceptance of God's love for us?
 - b. Why is it hard to truly accept and submit to God's love?
 - c. How does your life match up to the standard of loving one another as Christ has loved you?