

THE NATIONS

MY CHURCH

THE LOST



**COMPELLING
LOVE**

THE WORD

MY NEIGHBORS

MY ENEMIES

MY FRIENDS

together series 2023

Welcome Home

Welcome to Cypress Bible Church! We are a multi-generational church that seeks to grow in our walk with Jesus and to make Him known throughout our local and global communities. We believe that each person is created uniquely by God and has a purpose in His kingdom. Whether you're starting your faith journey or have years of experience, you are welcome here! Join us on the beautiful path of growing closer to Jesus and being equipped for service in His kingdom.



We are excited that you are here to join us for this sermon series! We have provided each sermon's Scriptures and use study questions to dig deeper into His Word and the series topics. This study can be done individually or in groups. Please **fill out a Connect Card or visit linktr.ee/cypressbible** if you are interested in joining one of CBC's small groups or classes!



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COMPELLING LOVE

TOGETHER SERIES 2023

What is a compelling love?

So often in our spiritual journey, we are taught that we must bear fruit to show our love and gratitude to God. While this is true, the motivation for living out our faith can become so focused on bearing fruit that we live into a works-based faith, seeking love from God that we already have. While doing good works can glorify the Lord and draw us closer to Him, seeking approval cannot be the foundation on which we live out our faith.

In 2 Corinthians 5:14, Paul writes that the love of Christ compels us to live a life of devotion to him. *His love* holds us together. *His love* has such a powerful and irresistible effect on our lives that we cannot help but bear fruit and start to "look and act" like Him. Because of the salvation we received through Him, our love for Jesus drives us to pursue holiness through obedience. The fruit we bear in our faith journey is not to earn brownie points or favor. Our fruit is rooted in Jesus Christ, who loved us enough to die for our sins, and by the power of His resurrection, offers new life to all who believe. What is God calling you to do through His compelling love?

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion, that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Contents

Spiritual Disciplines & Series Prep	02
1. Compelling Love	04
2. Compelled to the Word	07
3. Compelled to My Church	10
4. Compelled to My Friends	13
5. Compelled to My Neighbors	16
6. Compelled to My Enemies	19
7. Compelled to the Lost	22
8. Compelled to the Nations	25
Additional Notes	28
Reflections & Aspirations	29



**WATCH THE
SERMON SERIES**

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Spiritual Disciplines are intentional "patterns of behaviors" that play a significant role in our spiritual growth as followers of Jesus. The purpose of spiritual disciplines is to aid in transforming into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Here are some examples of spiritual disciplines that will be a part of the Compelling Love series:

THE WORD

Reading the Word is a consistent time devoted to becoming more familiar with the Word of God.

Studying the Word is more than reading the Bible. It is an intentional time to dig in and study Scripture to understand it more deeply and apply it to our daily lives.

Memorizing the Word, whether passages or single verses, allows you to internalize it so the Lord can use you to meet the specific needs of people you encounter by sharing His Word.

PRAYER

Prayer is finding a daily, consistent time to fellowship with God through words of thanksgiving, adoration, supplication, petition, and confession.

FASTING

Fasting is typically done by abstaining from food but does not have to be limited only to food. While fasting is not explicitly commanded, we see it used when making important decisions in Acts 13:2 and 14:23. We also see fasting done in conjunction with prayer in Luke 2:37 and 5:33. The purpose is to take your focus off of the things of this world and turn it towards God and His provision for your needs. Fasting shows you the constant reliance we need on God as Christians.

KOINONIA (FELLOWSHIP)

Koinonia is being in community with other believers. It's doing life with your church family. In a culture of individualism, busyness, and distraction, fellowship is often one thing Christians are willing to let go. When Paul addresses the different churches, he indicates the importance of holy living for individuals, but it is always in the context of the local church. Christian fellowship drives holiness and reminds us that we are not on this journey alone.

PREP FOR THE SERIES

To ensure that you get the most out of these upcoming sermons, we wanted to provide ways to prepare our hearts and minds so when it's time for us to gather in Sunday worship or in small groups, we are ready and fully engaged. We're excited to dive into this series with you. We can't wait for what we hope will be an incredibly meaningful time of growth together!

Ask the Lord to encourage you as He reveals who He is calling you to love.

Commit to come to church in-person for the whole series



Ask God to soften your heart to how He is transforming you.

Join a small group or class

Plan to do the weekly challenges. Let's put our theology in action!

IMPORTANT DATES

Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more info!

Sun, Jan. 1 – Small Group Sign Up Opens

Wed, Jan. 25 – Together We Pray

Sat & Sun, Feb. 11 & 12 – Gospel Conversation Trainings

Sat, Feb. 18 – Together We Serve

Sat, Feb. 25 – GO Missions Conference

Sun, Feb. 26 – GO Missions Sunday



Enjoy worship time and listen to our Compelling Love playlist on Spotify!

1. COMPELLING LOVE

ICE BREAKER

What are your New Year's resolutions?

CONTEXT

Paul encourages those in the church at Corinth to cling to the hope of their heavenly home as he reminds them that their time on this earth is temporal. Paul also reminds his brothers and sisters that all will appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Therefore they have an incredible task at hand as followers of Jesus while they are here on this side of glory.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-16 CSB

Therefore, since we know the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade people. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your consciences. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to be proud of us, so that you may have a reply for those who take pride in outward appearance rather than in the heart. ¹³ For if we are out of our mind, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion, that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.

The Ministry of Reconciliation

¹⁶ From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a worldly perspective. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we no longer know him in this way.

2. COMPELLED TO THE WORD

ICE BREAKER

What is the farthest place you have traveled?

CONTEXT

While Paul travels through the Galatian region, he has a vision to preach the Gospel in Macedonia. He and Silas go and preach in the city of Thyatira but are imprisoned for their ministry. When released, they travel to Thessalonica, where a Jewish mob runs them out for preaching in the synagogues.

ACTS 17:10–13 NIV

In Berea

As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

¹² As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

¹³ But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 NIV

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

3. COMPELLED TO MY CHURCH

ICE BREAKER

What did you think was a rite of passage for you growing up?

CONTEXT

Paul writes to the church at Ephesus that they have eternal purpose through Christ Jesus and prays that the church may be rooted and grounded in love, knowing God's love surpasses knowledge. Paul encourages them to walk worthy, strive for unity, and use their spiritual gifts to build up the church.

EPHESIANS 4:12-16 ESV

...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

4. COMPELLED TO MY FRIENDS

ICE BREAKER

What was the last thing that made you feel loved by a friend?

CONTEXT

Jesus confirms His deity to the disciples by proclaiming He is “the way, the truth, and the life,” and he comforts them by promising the Holy Spirit. In addition, Jesus states He is “the true vine” and that it is impossible to live out His commandments without abiding in His love.

JOHN 15:12–17 NIV

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

5. COMPELLED TO MY NEIGHBORS

ICE BREAKER

What is the most interesting interaction you have had with a neighbor?

CONTEXT

After feeding the 5000, Jesus explains to His disciples the cost of following him: "he must deny himself and take up his cross daily." Later while traveling, there were men who wanted to follow Jesus but could not meet the conditions He said. Jesus appoints and sends seventy people in pairs to cities as representatives of Christ.

LUKE 10:25–37 CSB

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Then an expert in the law stood up to test him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the law?" he asked him. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,**" and "**your neighbor as yourself.**"

²⁸ "You've answered correctly," he told him. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ Jesus took up the question and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

³⁷ "The one who showed mercy to him," he said. Then Jesus told him, "Go and do the same."

6. COMPELLED TO MY ENEMIES

ICE BREAKER

What are some of your pet peeves?

CONTEXT

Jesus begins to call His disciples and chooses 12 of them to be apostles. He then goes into the blessings and woes of life, but they are short-lived in terms of eternity. Jesus instructs them to love their enemies, to do good to those who hate them.

LUKE 6:27–36 NIV

Love for Enemies

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

7. COMPELLED TO THE LOST

ICE BREAKER

What are some church stereotypes about non-church goers?

CONTEXT

After ministry in the region of Gadarenes, Jesus gets in a boat and sails to His own city. He performs many miracles of healing, and the Pharisees grumble about him. Regardless, Jesus continues going from town to town, teaching, preaching, and showing compassion to the people.

MATTHEW 9:35–38 ESV

The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Laborers Few

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

8. COMPELLED TO THE NATIONS

ICE BREAKER

If you were to be a missionary overseas, what nation would you want to go to?

CONTEXT

After the writing of the six scrolls, John shares his vision of the sealing of the 144,000, with 12,000 from each tribe of Israel. John paints a picture of people from every nation and all tribes, peoples, and tongues standing together and worshipping God.

REVELATION 7:9-12 CSB

A Multitude from the Great Tribulation

After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!

¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne, and along with the elders and the four living creatures they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying,

Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and strength
be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

REFLECTIONS & ASPIRATIONS

As you reflect over the series, consider how each of the topics has impacted you. Which topic had the greatest impact?

Which of the challenges pushed your faith? Which challenges were easy for you to accomplish? Why do you think that is?

How has your understanding and perspective of Jesus grown?

How is God transforming you to be more like Jesus? Where did you see God move?

What hopes do you have for your walk with Jesus? Which spiritual disciplines you've practiced during this series will continue to help you?

What would it look like for the CBC church family to encourage you and do life alongside you?



How were you compelled to love?

CBC's Pastors & Staff want to hear how God has been moving in your life throughout this series. Scan the QR code to let us know!



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