



Love is the Heart of the Church

Sunday, October 8th, 2023 AVBC

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:34-35)

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)



1. Love _____.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10) (Mark 12:30-31)

A Church that Loves _____ is marked by:

- Surrender to Jesus
- Submission to the Leading of the Holy Spirit
- Uncompromising Gospel
- Leading in Prayer
- Hope
- Readiness to show Grace and Mercy



2. Love _____.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd... (Matthew 9:35-38)

A Church that Loves _____ is marked by:

- Compassion
- Seeing
- Praying
- Matthew 9:9-13* Matthews bring Matthews



3. Love _____.

Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. (Romans 12:3)

A Church that Loves _____ is marked by:

- Healthy Self-Awareness (Philippians 2:3-4, Galatians 6:3)
- Gratitude for other Ministers (2 Thessalonians 1:3)
- Encouragement (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Accountability (Proverbs 27:17, Galatians 6:1-2)

DIGGING DEEPER

(For use in personal/family devotions or with your care group)

- Q1: Share about a time when your church encouraged you through their love.
- Q2: Of the qualities of a church that loves God listed in #1, which two or three qualities do you struggle with most? How can you improve in these areas?
- Q3: Read Mark 12:30-31. In what ways are you being led by the Holy Spirit to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength?
- Q4: Read Matthew 9:9-13. How might Jesus' calling of Matthew give us hope for unbelievers we know who seem unreachable with the gospel?
- Q5: The word "Think" is used twice in Romans 12:3. How can the mind contribute to either a healthy or unhealthy view of ourselves?
- Q6: Is there an area of ministry at AVBC that you feel led to be involved in? What is holding you back?
- Q7: Prayerfully plan a way to encourage one other person from AVBC this week.