

## **We Highly Value God's Love**

*August 20, 2023*

**Text:** Mark 12:28-31; John 3:16-17; Romans 13:8-10; 1 John 4:8

### **The Importance of Core Values**

- \_\_\_\_\_ core values.
- \_\_\_\_\_ core values.

### **The Nature and Expression of God's Love**

- God's love \_\_\_\_\_ of others.
- God's love does \_\_\_\_\_ to others.
- God's love gives up selfish actions and self-serving attitudes.
- God's love cares for those who are \_\_\_\_\_ and who cannot repay.
- God's love loves \_\_\_\_\_ and friends equally.

### **Developing God's Love as Our Central Value**

- God's love is developed within us by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's love grows as it is \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's love defines the \_\_\_\_\_ of our ministries.

## **Life Enrichment**

---

What about today's teaching challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- What cultural values do you think have slipped away in recent years? Why have people left those values in favor of others?
- What values do you think you are presently living by? List no more than five and tell us why they are your personal core values.
- Pastor Dave mentioned values voting and parenting as examples of our common use of core values. What are some other ways we use values every day?
- Why do you think God's love is the central core value of Christianity? How should it affect the way we think, speak, relate, work, and minister?
- Of the five qualities of God's love mentioned in this week's sermon, which do you struggle to live out? Which do you find the easiest to express? Why?
- How do you think the Holy Spirit develops the love of God within us? How can we partner with Him to nurture the expression of God's love in our lives?
- How should the core value of God's love shape the attitude and actions of our church and its ministries?

**Explanation**

The meaning of life is found in God's unconditional love experienced in Jesus Christ. Without God's love nothing else really makes sense. Love's most fundamental characteristic is to seek the good of others. It is contrary to all selfish, self-centered attitudes. Love involves choosing to love and serve the unlovable, including our enemies.

**Key Points**

- God's love is selfless, serving, and sacrificial.
- God's love gives to those who cannot repay Him and to His enemies.
- God's love is demonstrated in the giving of His only son, Jesus Christ, to rescue people from their sin.
- God's love is the answer to the most fundamental questions of human existence.
- God's love is known in relationships.

**Key Scriptures**

- **John 3:16-17** - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
- **1 John 4:8** - Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- **Mark 10:45** - For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
- **Mark 12:28-31** - One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."
- **Romans 13:8** - Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

(Adapted from <http://www.ethos.org.au/site/Ethos/filesystem/documents/In-depth/Politics/Eight-Core-Christian-Values-Brian-Edgar.pdf>).