

Life to the Fullest: I Choose Love

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Boca Raton Community Church, Boca Raton, FL

Love is the most vital need of people in our world other than air, food, and water.

“Love is the one ingredient of which our world never tires and of which there is never an abundance. The world will never out-grow its need for love.” —C. Neil Strait

“Love is the medicine for our sick old world. If people can learn to give and receive love, they will usually recover from their physical or mental illnesses.” —Dr. Karl Menninger, Founder of Menninger Clinic

On the web site www.amazon.com, there are 31,547 book titles listed on the subject of love.

Galatians 5:13-14
Galatians 5:22-23

Life to the Fullest is the theme of the series over the next few weeks. Christ can change a life and make it productive, fruitful, abundant.

John 10:10

Preliminary Thoughts:

1. God wants me to live a love-filled life.

2. The source of love is God.

God alone enables and empowers a life of love. Of all the descriptions we employ to describe and relate what God is like, the purest and simplest is this: “God is love.” I John 4:16

“By this will all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

When we get connected to the Creator in a dynamic relationship, His life flows in us.

3. Love is the key to a fulfilled life.

“If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don’t love, I’m nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God’s Word with power, revealing all His mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, ‘Jump,’ and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.”

I Corinthians 13:1-3 (The Message)

Life - Love = Nothing

4. Love is developed through the work of the Holy Spirit of God in my life.

Just as fruit must bud, grow and mature, so should the fruit of love.

WHAT DOES THIS FRUIT CALLED LOVE LOOK LIKE?

☐ **It is decisive.**

Intentional. What God commands, God enables. Love is not something you fall into, but something you step onto by choice.

☐ **It is active.**

Love is not an ornament (noun), but a function (verb). It is shown in behavior and attitude.

☐ **It gives and forgives.**

Love does not keep accounts of cost or the loss, but gives.

Ephesians 4:2

WHAT DOES THIS FRUIT CALLED LOVE ACT LIKE?

The Bible gives a beautiful description of what love is like in I Corinthians 13. There is another brief, yet powerful description of love found in Romans 12:9-10, "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."

☐ Love is truthful [without hypocrisy]

☐ Love is tough [abhor what is evil]

☐ Love is thoughtful [cling to what is good]

☐ Love is tender [affectionate]

WHAT DOES THIS FRUIT CALLED LOVE TASTE LIKE?

When your life is characterized by this love, how does it feel to others? What will they experience?

I Listen

I pay you the highest of all compliments when I give you my attention.

I Overlook

Many would be happier and healthier if we would lighten up. Love covers a multitude of sins.

I Value

Express value to people. Acknowledge them, call them by name, write them, pray for them, visit them, be kind to them.

I Encourage

A son once asked his dad if he would play darts. After 30 minutes, the dad said, "I thought you wanted me to shoot darts, but you are the only one throwing them." The son said, "No, I'll throw the darts. You just stand there and say, 'Wonderful!'"

While on a trip, a salesman called his wife from a pay phone. After he finished the conversation, hung up, and walked away, the pay phone rang. He turned around, answered the phone, and the operator said, "I thought you would like to know that after you hung up, your wife said, 'I love you.'"

God, in a decisive act of giving and forgiving, reached out to us to touch us with His love and to save us.

John 3:16

This message was preached from the pulpit of Boca Raton Community Church, Boca Raton, Florida, on Sunday, April 22, 2001, by Dr. David H. McKinley, Senior Pastor. The complete message is available on audio cassette tape through the media ministry of Boca Raton Community Church. To order this message, simply email us at tapes@bocacommunity.org and specify the message title, date, and billing information. (\$4 per tape including shipping and handling).