

SERMON SERIES
“WE’RE ON A MISSION FROM GOD”
“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR! PART 2”
Matthew 22:34 – 40; 4:7-12, 19-21
Pastor Steve Cavallaro

I. Love is the essential mark of the Christian. (3:11-15; 4:7-8, 20-21)

“Love your neighbor” → “love one another”

“wicked Cain ... murdered his brother”

“his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.”

“we have passed out of death into life.”

“Born of God and knows God”

Genesis 4:1-10

John 13:35

Hebrews 11:4

“This doctrine concerning mutual love cannot be beaten into the heads of carnal men nor sink into their hearts. Christians gladly receive and obey it.”

-Martin Luther

“If your heart is full of love, it will find vent; you will find or make ways enough to express your love in deeds.”

-Jonathan Edwards

“Love alone distinguishes the children of God from those of the devil.”-Augustine

II. We can love because God loved us & lives in us. (3:16; 4:8-12, 16, 19)

Cain vs. Christ: *“He laid down his life for us”*

“the propitiation for our sins”

“God is love” (4:8,16) → loved us → love one another.

“God abides in us and His love is perfected in us”

“abides in love abides in God”

Colossians 3:3

“Christian love, both to God and man, is wrought in the heart by the same work of the Spirit. There are not two works of the Spirit of God,...”-Jonathan Edwards

“By faith God dwells in us, and God is love; then, wherever God abides, love ought to be there.”

-John Calvin

III. Love the real people in your life in word and deed. (3:16-18)

"we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers."

John 13: *"to love one another as I have loved you."*

1 Thessalonians 5

Commitment: To love your fainthearted neighbor with gospel comfort & hope.

"If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need..."

"let us not love in work or talk but in deed and in truth"

"... closes his heart against Him"

Commitment: To love your needy neighbor with the world's good.

John 13:34

Romans 12:15

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Galatians 6:3

1 Thessalonians 5:14

Jeremiah 2:14-24

"To serve one another through love, that is, ... to comfort him that is afflicted, to raise up him that is weak, to help your neighbor by all means possible, to bear with his infirmities ...; these are works which reason judges to be of no importance."

-Martin Luther

"Selfishness is a principle that contracts the heart, and confines it to self, while love enlarges it, and extends it to others."

-Jonathan Edwards

"Comfort from the Father cascades down into our lives so that comfort may cascade from our lives into the lives of others who are suffering."

-Michael Emlet

Mission & Commitment

Love God! Love Your Neighbor!

- Commitment to reverent & joyful worship.
- Commitment to renounce sinful thoughts, words & deeds by God's grace.
- Commitment to cultivate godly thoughts, words & deeds by God's grace.
- Commitment to pursue meaningful relationships with one another.
- Commitment to pursue the well-being of your neighbor: believing and unbelieving.
- Commitment to repent of pride and its community-destroying sins.
- Commitment to address sin to restore & protect the community.