

This Is Love

How to Become More Loving

JULY 10, 2022

According to scripture, the only thing that matters is faith expressing itself through love. In this episode, we'll talk about why that's the case and what it should look like in our everyday lives.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- We may know something's important, but we aren't intentional about doing it.
- The Greek word for love that Jesus often uses is "agape." Agape love is sacrificial.
- The journey of following Jesus should, over time, grow humble and self-sacrificing love in us.
- The apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians because they had drifted off course and he wanted to get them back on track.
- I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. | Galatians 1, vv.6-7
- "Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith." | Galatian 3, v.11
- There are lots of things that can distract us from the true message of Jesus—it might be focusing more on pushing our politics, on trying to win arguments, or on how well we've done things like go to church or read the Bible.
- For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. | Galatians 5, v.6
- The only thing that counts is faith, and that faith is evidenced by our love.
- For you have been called to freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. | Galatians 5, v.13
- The best response to this incredible love and freedom that we experience from God is to share that love with others by serving them.
- This month, we have multiple community outreach projects you can sign up for—serving at Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission, Cradles to Crayons, Live to Serve, and Small Things.
- God didn't place us here in Philadelphia to turn a blind eye to poverty and suffering. He put us here because He wants us to make a difference and to show His love in tangible ways.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's something you know is important/good for you, but you've drifted away from doing it?
2. What's the most recent (or most memorable) example of someone demonstrating *agape* love to you—love that is sacrificial and not based on anything you've done for them?
3. Do you ever get distracted or off track in your faith, where you're focused on less important things than agape love? What are some examples of that?
4. What are some of the ways you've expressed your faith through acts of love?
5. How can you challenge yourself this week to use your freedom to serve and love the people around you?