Love's Mandates

Tony Mauck · Romans 5:8

INTRODUCTION

- That's exactly what Paul told us to do about this in 1 Corinthians 14 and verse 1. He said, pursue love.
- What I'm most concerned about tonight as we look at a few things from the scriptures is that we get God's definition and we pursue that kind of love in all of our relationships.
- But God demonstrates his own love toward us. In that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Love One Another As I Have Loved You

John 13:34–35; Ephesians 3:17–19; Ephesians 5:25

- It's love one another as I have loved you.
- By this all men will know that you are my disciples, … if you have love for one another.
- The new quality to this is the example that Jesus set the human display.
- He prayed for his disciples the night of his betrayal in John 17. He served them. He went around the room with the towel and washed their feet.
- Okay, our love in every relationship should be no less.

2 Do You Love Me? Tend My Sheep

John 21:15–17; John 21:22

- He challenges Peter by saying, Do you love me, Peter?
- If you say that you love me, Peter, do what? Tend my sheep. Tend my lambs.
- What is that to you? You follow me.
- Love's mandate is for you and me, and that is that we tend to sheep. This isn't just an elder responsibility.
- You've got to tend to other people, to their well-being.

3 Regard One Another As More Important Than Yourself

Philippians 2:3–4; Matthew 5:3

- Only the person who is poor in spirit will do what Philippians 2 and verse 3 says.
- Do nothing from selfishness and empty conceit. But … with humility of mind, let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.
- Do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also for the interest of others.
- This is not something that you just naturally do. You've got to determine to do this.
- Love meets the needs of others before it meets the wants of self.

4 Lay Down Our Lives for the Brethren

1 John 3:14–16; 1 Peter 1:22

- We have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren.
- Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer. And you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
- He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. This is love.
- The question is, how far would I go? What would I sacrifice? What could I give up for the object of my love?

THE CHALLENGE

Are you going to love God because he loved you? Are you going to reciprocate the love that he had?

MY NOTES