



DATE January 31, 2016

SPEAKER Paul Clark

TITLE Expressing Love

SERIES No one can live without it. If you have everything, but this, you're left with nothing! There is no replacement for it as it's at the heart of humankind's existence. It can be the most difficult word to define, and yet it's essential for emotional health. No relationship can survive without it, and every person can live because of it. Love! So, how do we intentionally love?

Intentional love means intentionally willing others' good. It involves knowing how you speak love and how others hear love. In this week's sermon, as we consider loving through acts of service, we will examine how Jesus set the example by serving the ones closest to him.

1. Review John 13: 1-17. What stands out most to you in the example of Jesus washing the dirty feet of his disciples? What is your biggest takeaway from the story?
2. What comes to your mind when you consider the phrase *Acts of Service*? Have thoughts from today's sermon changed anything you previously thought of that love language?
3. Jesus washed the feet of all his disciples—even Judas, the one betraying him. What might have been going through his mind as he washed Judas' feet? Think of someone you consider an enemy. How might you respond when presented with an opportunity to serve them?
4. Pastor Paul said when the disciples realized Jesus was about to wash their feet it should have prompted them to volunteer to do it. Instead, there was stubborn silence rooted in selfish concern over status. Can you share a time when you were prompted to serve, but stubborn, selfishness prevented you from it?
5. Paul Clark shared an excellent illustration of intentional listening when he talked about putting the fork down between bites at dinner with Kay. In what other specific, practical ways can we improve in listening to others as an expression of our love for them?
6. Paul said, "acts of service are what move the kingdom forward." Do you agree? What else do you think moves the kingdom forward?
7. Read Luke 18:10-14 & Peter 1:15-16: Discuss the relationship between holiness and humility? How does one impact the other? Paul said humility challenges some of our most basic sins:

Vanity: How I look. What others think of me. My self-image.

Stubbornness: The willfulness that causes us to hold on to our needs, our wants, our stuff

Exclusion: The selfish orientation that shuts people out and keeps us isolated from the needs around us.

Which one of these tend to be your weakness and why? How might God break through to lessen this weakness in your life?

8. Being fully present to someone demands that you focus on the other person and his or her experience-- who they are, what they're saying and what they're feeling. Rate yourself on this from 1 to 10. What might you need to do in order to become more fully present with others?

As you look ahead to your commitments in the upcoming week, make a decision to offer your service as a sacrificial act of LOVE in response to God's sacrifice for you. Make it a priority to see people as an opportunity rather than an obstacle.