

How to love one another

READ THE PASSAGE: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Suggest people follow along in their bible

Intro: A cold world

- Jesus said in Matt 24:12:
 - Because of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold.
 - Context = last days

Transition: And that's exactly how it is today

- Division in our country
 - Like a growing tear
 - Rioting everywhere
 - Neighborhoods,
 - Streets
 - Capitol
- This hatred = unthinkable for Christians
 - Yet lack of love can exist in any church
 - 2020 = changing churches
 - Shutdown = permanent church close
 - Churches in the area shut down -> SJ
 - Christians leave for many reasons
 - Superficial

- Music style
 - Suits
 - Sneakers
- Substantial
 - Doctrine
 - Church going liberal
- Most common = unloved
 - Feel cold/distant
 - Actually hurt by someone
- This is why Peter writes this passage
 - He knows love -> cold
 - So Peter tells us
 - No bitterness
 - No grudge
 - Love one another fervently
 - Love one another courageously

Transition: So today..

4 Steps on How to Love One Another

1. Live, knowing that Jesus is almost here
 - a. V.7 -‘The end of all things is near’
 - i. Context
 1. V.5- Jesus will judge unbelievers

2. The end = Jesus' judgement
- ii. Jesus = the final judge
 1. Time's up
 2. Gavel slam
 - iii. Christians know Jesus coming back
 1. Very few live like this ^
 2. Reason
 - a. Know = Jesus coming back
 - b. Don't know = Jesus is almost here
 - i. Right around the corner
 - iv. Illustration: Planning for sports but not Jesus
 1. Maybelle and I apartment
 2. Dog park
 3. Met 2 friends
 - a. Who were broncos fans
 - b. Stopped watching NFL 2014
 - c. Reinterested
 - d. Invited to game
 4. Careful planners
 - a. Next Tue @8pm
 - b. Meet outdoor square = TV
 - c. Food/beverages
 5. More planning

- a. Watch the game with them
- b. Leave half-time
- c. Second invite
 - i. Next game 2 months
 - ii. Last national TV game
 - iii. Other games = illegal

6. Impressed

- a. Dedicated
- b. Well thought out plan
- c. Just to watch bad team

v. Christians plan entertainment

- 1. NBA finals
- 2. Super Bowl
- 3. Mandalorian

vi. More carefully than return of Christ

- 1. Mark calendars
- 2. Prepare food
- 3. Take PTO
- 4. Pre-order
- 5. Just for entertainment

vii. But not Jesus

- 1. No deep devotion
- 2. Struggle with particular sin years

3. Becoming lukewarm

viii. Missing out

1. Incredible joy serving God
2. Instead pain free life
3. They coast
4. Eternal cruise ship
5. Live as if Jesus isn't coming

ix. Matthew 25:1-13 Parable

1. Read
2. Don't know exact date/time
3. All we need to know Jesus = near
4. Don't be foolish
5. Be prepared
6. Prepare to meet Jesus

x. Illustration: Prepare like a couple getting married

1. Know many getting married
2. They're always so prepared
3. Friend
 - a. Mexico
 - b. 2022 = COVID
 - c. Next week
 - i. Castle
 - ii. Far from cartel

- iii. So well planned!
- d. Ready for Jesus' wedding?
 - i. Prepared to meet God?
 - ii. Prepared to meet maker?
 - iii. Prepared to unite with Christ?
 - 1. Ultimate marriage
 - 2. All marriages point ^

Transition: Because Jesus is coming near

- b. Peter commands 2:
 - i. 'Be of sound judgement'
 - 1. Similar verse: 1 Peter 1:13
 - a. 'Prepare your minds for action'
 - b. Ancient soldiers
 - i. Long tunics like skirt
 - ii. Battle time
 - 1. Wrap tight waist
 - 2. No loose ends
 - 3. Run/charge @ enemy
 - c. No loose ends in mind
 - i. Don't let
 - 1. Sinful thoughts roam
 - 2. Effect = cloud judgement
 - d. Let bible renew mind

- i. Effect = sound judgement
- ii. 'Be of sober spirit'
 1. Don't be led
 - a. Passing feeling
 - b. Thoughts
 2. Jesus is coming
 - a. Don't waste time
 - i. Temporary earth (replaced)
 3. Illustration: WW3 & Ravi
 - a. Imagine WW3 & North Korea
 - i. Sent to invade by boat
 1. Sane?
 - a. Partying in a place
 - i. Might kill them
 - ii. Will be destroyed
 - b. Christians = ambassadors
 - i. Mission = save
 - c. Ravi
 - i. Famous apologist
 - ii. Died last year
 - iii. Investigation after
 1. Rumors
 - iv. Evidence

1. Massage parlors
2. Sexual abuse of many
- v. Don't know if he's a Christian
 1. He hid evidence
 2. Never confessed
 3. Would not be found until dead
- vi. Didn't believe Jesus coming
 1. Jesus a million miles away
- d. Don't be like Ravi
 - i. Don't waste time
 - ii. Jesus almost here

Transition: Now Paul tells us to be sound judgement + sober spirit = prayer

4. Prayer
 - a. If mind = warped
 - i. How can we pray?
 - ii. Distraction = no prayer
 1. Entertainment
 2. Worry
 - iii. How can we love no prayer?
 - b. Peter's point = clear mind = prayer
 - i. Praying to God = love others
 1. Prioritize greatest commands
 - a. Love God

- b. Love one another
- 2. Rejecting worldliness
 - a. Mind unpolluted
 - b. So we can pray
 - i. Focus on God
 - ii. And others
 - c. Church Facebook prayer
 - i. Prayer reminds us purpose
 - ii. Praying with pollution = flat
 - iii. Keep minds clear -> pray and love others

Transition: That was Step 1

- 2. Keep your love redlined
 - a. V.8 – ‘Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another’
 - b. Love = most important
 - i. Clear minds + prayer = loving God and one another
 - ii. ‘Above all’ = most important
 - c. Love redline – ‘fervent’
 - i. Stretched sprinter’s leg
 - ii. Max rep weight lifter
 - iii. 200mph car stuck redline
 - iv. Peter says, keep love

1. Max cap
2. Max speed
3. Redlined
4. Going all the way for one another
 - a. 'Church car stuck ice'
 - b. Go for it ^
 - c. 'Need encouragement'
 - d. Go for it ^
 - e. Go all the way
 - f. Love at max cap

Transition: But why should I redline?

That guy stinks I don't like him!

- d. Reason – 'love covers a multitude of sins'
 - i. Heavy cavalry = unstoppable
 1. Tank of medieval world
 2. Imagine
 - a. Knight + horse = armor
 - b. Lance = over 1 foot
 - c. Scary
 - d. 500 knights
 - e. Tight formation
 - f. Running straight to you
 - g. Unstoppable

3. Before = more heavy cav = win
 - a. People terrified = unstoppable
 - b. Stoppable = one knight
 - i. Group of nen
 - c. Unstoppable = 500
 - i. Horses don't stop
 - ii. Run through
 - iii. Keep going and going
4. Max love = unstoppable
 - a. Not even sin could stop it
5. People leave = lack of love
 - a. Tiniest slight =
 - i. Bickering
 - ii. Bitterness
 - iii. Church = school playground
 - iv. 'Did he just call me fat?'
 - v. 'Never coming back!'
 - b. But when love = redlined
 - i. 'Oh meant phat! Haha!'
 - ii. Strong love = overlooks
 1. Everything
 2. Even hard ones
 3. Christians can seriously harm

- a. Sheep bite
- b. Sheep bite hard
- c. Exceptions = unrepentant sin
 - i. Sinner hurting themselves
 - ii. Confront = Matt 18:15
 - 1. “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”
 - 2. Confront directly
 - a. Privately
 - 3. Problem/criticism with someone?
 - a. Don't approach
 - i. Friend
 - ii. Director
 - iii. Pastor
 - b. Go directly to person
 - 4. Don't listen?
 - a. Bring 2 or 3 more
 - 5. Still don't listen?
 - a. Then bring in church
 - b. Like pastor
 - 6. Telling someone else = gossip
 - a. Resentment

- b. Consequence not listening to Jesus
- d. More often = weak love
 - i. World minded
 - ii. Distracted
 - iii. Cold love
 - iv. Small things = offense
- e. But strong love = unstoppable
- f. When
 - i. Soaked Lord's presence
 - ii. Soaked in his love
 - iii. Love = redline
 - iv. Overlook everything
 - v. Godly love = sacrificial
 - 1. Jesus on cross
 - 2. Soldiers spit
 - 3. Pharisees mock
 - 4. Courageous love
 - 5. True love

Transition: That's step 2, let's move on to step

- 3. Don't be a stranger
 - a. Heard of this?
 - i. Old phrase
 - ii. I think of old south lady

1. 'Don't be a stranger now ya hear?'
- b. Relevant?
- c. Look at v.9- 'Be hospitable to one another without complaint'
- i. Hospitality is not merely American
 1. Having over for dinner
 2. Spotless house = museum
 - ii. Not bad but not biblical
 - iii. Bible = deeper
 1. More than outward activities
 2. An attitude
 3. Greek word = 'loving strangers'
 4. Attitude = not custom
 - a. 'I'm not a secret'
 - b. 'Not a closed book'
 - c. 'People know me'
 - d. 'Open book'
 - e. 'Not in high tower'
 - f. 'Now closed off'
 - g. 'Accessible'
 - h. 'Not a stranger'
 - iv. Early church = no strangers
 1. Possessions shared everyone
 - a. Don't copy

2. Point = early church very open
 - a. Knew each other
- v. Attitude = being open
 1. Have people in your home
 2. Not obsessed fake perfect image
 - a. Of home and fam
 - b. Facebook/IG ready at all times
 3. More concerned about
 - a. Getting to know them
 - b. They get to know you
 4. Leave carpet a little crooked
 - a. It's ok!
 - b. Be genuine!
 5. Not saying leave pigsty
 - a. Just be genuine
- vi. Hospitality = very important
 1. Even a qualification for elder/pastors
 - a. That's what 1 Tim 3:2 says
 2. Don't want pastor
 - a. High tower
 3. Poor congregation
 - a. Stretch out arm
 - b. Can't reach

4. Like people trying to catch glimpse of a king
5. Personally = I invite people
 - a. Still want to have you over
 - b. Healthy/COVID
 - i. Invite people
 - ii. Not just same fam/friends
 1. Jesus,
 - a. 'Pharisees do that'
 - iii. Invite people you don't know well from church
 - vii. That's how we love one another
 1. Don't be a stranger
 2. Don't just go out with people
 - a. Eat out etc.
 3. Go in with people
 4. Love strangers

Transition: Moving on to step

4. Use the gift God gave you
 - a. We know @ Fil-Am
 - i. God gives gift to believer
 1. To serve church
 - b. V.10 - 'As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of manifold grace of God.'
 - i. Gifts unique only to you

1. 'Special gift'
2. Spiritual gift not put in a box
 - a. Lists in the bible
 - i. But all lists different
 - ii. Meaning
 1. Not necessarily only gifts
 - b. Using gifts looks different
 - i. Gift of evangelism for one
 - ii. Other uses same gift differently
 - iii. Spiritual gift = melting pot
 1. Unique mix of gifts
 2. No one has same gift
 - c. Spiritual gift = precious/special
 - i. So use it to serve
 1. One another!
 - ii. Don't know your gift?
 1. Start with serving
 - a. That interests you
 - b. That you want
 2. Or an idea
 - a. Share with others
 - i. Get support
 3. Or a burden

- a. A complaint
- b. See a weakness
- c. Others don't see
- d. Burden =
 - i. God's gift
 - ii. Help Church

3. Church culture = jump rabbit

- a. Leaving church
 - i. 2 weeks notice
 - ii. Find better one
 - iii. So unloving

4. The church needs one another

- a. Because everyone has
 - i. Special function
 - ii. A gift only you have
- b. When you leave
 - i. You deprive
 - ii. Fellow bros/sis of what they need
 - 1. You!
 - iii. Imagine your hand suddenly left
 - 1. How devastating!
 - 2. Not to mention painful!
- c. Use your gift that God gave

- i. Your bros/sis need it
 - ii. As body needs hands!
 - c. Transition: But what attitude serve?
 - i. Peter says, 'as good stewards of the manifold grace of God'
 - 1. Manifold grace defined
 - a. Spiritual gifts that God gives
 - i. So many
 - ii. So varied
 - iii. Gift =special
 - 2. So treat your gift as a good steward!
 - a. God gave you to take care
 - b. God wants you to use it!
 - c. Not leave it dying in the dirt!
 - i. Like steward
 - 1. From parable of talent
 - 2. Didn't use it
 - d. Take good care of it
 - d. When whole church serves with gifts
 - i. Like orchestra
 - 1. All instruments
 - a. Timpani
 - b. Trumpet
 - c. Violin

2. Sweet sound
 - a. Every instrument playing
 - b. Everything in harmony
- ii. If you want to love one another
 1. Use your gift

Transition: The final step is

5. Love one another because you love God
 - a. See in v.11 –‘Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who serves by the strength which God supplies’
 - i. Peter makes gifts simple
 - ii. Your unique gift will be of two kinds
 1. Speaking
 2. Serving
 - iii. Everyone’s unique
 1. How one uses it = very different
 2. From person to person
 3. Some have a mix of both
 4. Unique mix
 - iv. Peter says: when serving, serve in the name of the Lord
 1. That’s why he says
 2. Speaking gift speak utterances
 - a. If they use speaking gift

- b. Better be the Bible
 - c. Not their own ideas
 - 3. Or serving
 - a. Maybe a quiet prayer
 - b. Or helper
 - i. So many in our church
 - 1. Helping all the time!
- 4. Better serve like Jesus:
 - a. As if Jesus' own strong arm serving
 - b. Don't serve with bitterness
 - c. Serve
 - i. Humility
 - ii. Genuineness
- v. Why in the name of the Lord?
 - 1. Ultimately we glorify God
 - 2. We love one another
 - a. Because we love God
 - b. 1 John 4:19 says,
 - i. 'We love because he first loved us.'
 - 3. That's why we love unconditional
 - a. We can love enemies
 - i. Who hurt us
 - b. Gospel

- i. Because loved us and forgave
- ii. A debt dreadful to pay
 1. Hell
- iii. Instead God sent his son
 1. To die
 2. Whoever believes
 - a. Penalty of his sin paid
 - b. Full by Jesus
 3. You hear this:
 - a. You don't know love of God
 - b. You see our love for each other as church
 4. You need to know:
 - a. God's love
 - b. Offers to you
 - c. Through Jesus
 - d. Faith alone
 - e. Don't have to be lovable
 - f. God already showed his love to you:
 - i. Jesus cross
- iv. If not
 1. You will never know
 2. True love

3. Only wrath

vi. Why we serve

1. God's great love
2. Worthy
3. Peter says, 'To whom belongs glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.'
4. God alone is worthy
 - a. Our love
 - b. Service
5. God alone reason we love
6. We love one another because
 - a. God is worthy
 - b. And he loved us first

Transition: So that's the 5 steps:

1. Live, knowing that Jesus is almost here
2. Keep your love redlined
3. Don't be a stranger
4. Use the gift God gave you
5. Love one another because you love God

Transition: Now I want to end this sermon about telling you about: John Selwyn

Conclusion:

- John Selwyn
- Missionary in 1800s
- South Sea Islands
- Helping boy from tougher island
- Rebellious boy
- One day
 - Selwyn spoke to boy
 - Boy refused what Selwyn asked
 - Boy angrily struck Selwyn's face
- Boy was punished sent back to his island
 - Went back to godless ways
- Many years later
 - Selwyn was sent to help sick man
 - Sick man was dying
 - Begging to be baptized
 - Sick man told Selwyn
 - The teaching he taught him
 - Selwyn asked dying man
 - 'What's your name?'
 - Dying man replied
 - 'Call me John Selwyn, because he taught me what Christ was like that day when I struck him, and I saw the color mount in his face, but he never said a word except of love afterwards.'

- That's the power of God's love
 - His love changes lives
 - He makes us love one another courageously

- Pray