

Encounter these verses today:

circle words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side ...



Galatians 5 :: Fruit of the Spirit (NIV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 13 :: Life of Love (MSG)

1 If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. 2 If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. 3-7 If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

8-10 Love never dies. 13 But for right now ... we have three things to do to lead us: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

John 13 :: A New Command

NIV: 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

MSG: 34-35 "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other."

Acts 4 :: A New Way of Living (MSG)

32-33 The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them.

34-35 And so it turned out that not a person among them was needy. Those who owned fields or houses sold them and brought the price of the sale to the apostles and made an offering of it. The apostles then distributed it according to each person's need.



April 22, 2012 | Pastor Terry Bate

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

Galatians 5:6 (NIV)

Have you **experienced the Holy Spirit** personally? Share.

Using the scripture on the back of this insert, circle the **fruit of the Spirit** you experience naturally. Now underline the ones that you feel need some **development** within you.

Define (in your words) **agape love** ...

Using the scripture on the back, circle the descriptions of agape love from **1 Corinthians** you experience naturally. Underline the challenging ones.

What connection is there between the new commandment Jesus gave his followers in John 13 and the way they treated each other in Acts 2&4?

How should agape love impact **YOUR life** this week? How must it impact **OUR church** right now?



Miss Something? That's okay!!
You can download this sermon at flushingcommunity.org

Digging Deeper

[Engaging the message throughout the week]

Monday: 04.23.2012

Prayer Focus: The Flushing Community

Passage: Galatians 5:6

Insight: Today's reading is one verse. Usually I give you a passage of scripture that will take some time. But today, I want to give you a verse that you need to put to memory. Post it on your mirror, on the fridge, in your car ... put this to memory and be reminded of it's simple power.

Questions for Consideration:

How can you (or did you) express agape love today?

Are there certain people you find it difficult to love more than others?

Pray that God will give you the strength to love them, too.

Tuesday: 04.24.2012

Prayer Focus: FCC Church Leadership

Passage: 1 John 3:11-24

Insight: Love seems simple at a passing glance but when you look closer at it, it's challenging. Am I willing to give to someone else in need? Can I sacrifice my time and resources to help someone else? Can I look past those things that drive me crazy and love everyone? Help me obey you, Lord Jesus!!

Questions for Consideration:

How did Jesus exemplify agape love for us (v. 16)?

Wednesday: 04.25.2012

Prayer Focus: Don't forget about Boost tonight!

Passage: 1 John 4:7-21

Insight: John connect the idea here that as we love others, we really are becoming more like Jesus himself. His words also indicate that there is little room to negotiate our need to love. If we only give it lip service but don't follow it up with action, we condemn ourselves as liars.

Questions for Consideration:

Verse 12 indicates that when we love others, we become the physical representation of God. Have you seen that happen?

How has love driven out fear in your life? How do you need it to drive out fear in your life today? (v. 18)

Thursday: 04.26.2012

Prayer Focus: The sick and recovering (iPray)

Passage: Acts 6:8-7:19

Insight: We are going to shift our attention toward Sunday's service. Our reading over the next 2 days will be about Stephen who will ultimately be killed for his faith in Jesus. As you read today's passage, consider the parallel's to Jesus' execution.

Questions for Consideration:

What was Stephen doing before he was arrested?

How truthful was the accusation waged before his leaders?

Why do you think Stephen responded with a history lesson of the Jewish faith?

Friday: 04.27.2012

Prayer Focus: Our church worship services (4/29)

Passage: Acts 7:20-8:1

Insight: Jesus was not starting something new. In fact, Christianity is not a different religion than Jewish faith—it's the completion of it! Stephen is trying to point back to the story of God with the hope that those standing opposed to him will see the validity of Jesus as the Son of God.

Questions for Consideration:

How do you think the listeners of Stephen's testimony felt as he pointed out time after time how God's people missed the work of God right in front of them?

Are you afraid you may miss the work of God in your lifetime?

Wednesday Night

BOOST

It's not too late to
join our spring
session!

Now - May 23

Ladies: "Mercy Triumphs" by Beth Moore. Discover what faith in Jesus can do for you as you journey through the book of James!

Men: Utilizing the Life Application Bible Study, we are going to journey through the book of James. Join us at the Salem's home.

The Book of Acts: Mike DeVuyst will be leading a great discussion on the book of Acts. Discover great insight into the early church!

Children: Will be looking the Lord's prayer and Club 56 will be going through the book of Daniel.

Youth: Will be meeting at Pastor Joel's and going through the Mosaic Experiment looking at ancient practices of faith.