

Christian Life Foundation Course

Session 5 – Growing Together in the Community

Last time – Growing Together in Christ

Examples of serving one another empowered the God's Spirit.

Examples of sharing the joy of our salvation together

Discovering one another to discern needs, joys, sorrows, challenges, etc.

Tonight – How can we as the Body of Christ serve and love our community in the Name of Jesus?

John 13:34-35 – Jesus commanded us to love one another

Clearly Jesus speaking to believers about loving other believers

But why?

So ALL people will know we are His followers

What does it mean to truly love someone?

ἀγάπη agape – The love God shows toward us – John 15:10-17

Luke 10:25-37

Implication is that we must also love the lost – possibly even more than our brethren

Not always easy

Loving the deserving (in our opinion) is easier than loving the unlovable

Yet – Matthew 5:43-48

God loves the victim, the innkeeper, the Samaritan, the Pharisee, and the Levite equally

The Samaritan is painted as the good guy because in Jewish culture of the day Samaritans were despised because of an age old grudge

Ulster

Balkans

Sometimes (frequently, usually) we won't be repaid in kind

John 15:18-21

Now we know the commandment, and our expectations readjusted

What now?

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Love is and action word

Without partiality (in any direction)

James 2:1-8

Jesus died for EVERYONE

Thoughts and prayers are a good thing but...

James 2:14-18 – Faith shown BY our works

REMINDER – This is an evangelism issue not a salvation issue

“I’ve got mine” is NEVER the right attitude

To do list... Matthew 25:31-40

Pray

Seeking God’s missionary will

Intercession

Provision – gift of discerning spirits is essential to good stewardship of God-given assets

Food

Shelter

Water

Money

Employment

Education/Discipleship

Transportation

Companionship

Visiting the lonely

Gentle evangelism – Your own testimony is your most powerful tool

Admonition – with meekness, and above all genuine *ἀγάπη agape*.

Apprehensive, confused, lacking confidence?

Find co-workers among the brethren and go together

Not apprehensive, confused, or lacking confidence?

Offer yourselves as mentors

This is a discipleship ministry in itself.

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Some practical ideas to pray about and work toward

Food giveaway ministry

Meals on wheels

Outreach meals at the church

Ride sharing

Prayer station

Prayer request box

Group/paired team visits

Long-term care facilities

Assisted living facilities

Shut-ins

Youth outreaches

Kids' Club for younger kids

Tutoring

Professional "show and tell" in schools

Outings

Hiking

Camping

Your practical ideas

And... GO!