

Today I am going to keep it simple. The gospel is simple. I think we have over complicated it in America. For some reason we have applied all of our rules and regulations to the simplicity of the gospel of Jesus Christ. However, there was a band that got it right back in the day. Well, at least lyrically they got it right. Here are some of their lyrics.

*There's nothing you can do that can't be done.
Nothing you can sing that can't be sung.
Nothing you can say but you can learn how to play the game - It's easy.*

*There's nothing you can make that can't be made.
No one you can save that can't be saved.
Nothing you can do but you can learn how to be you in time - It's easy.*

*All you need is love, all you need is love,
All you need is love, love, love is all you need.*

The song is All You Need is Love by the Beatles. I love the message of the song because often times we want to be defined by what we do and not who we are. As Christians, who we are is more important than what we do. Who are we? We are the sons and daughters of God.

Romans 8:14-17 (This means PP entire verse)

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

I guess we should ask ourselves, "Who is God?" The Bible says, "God is love!"

Therefore as children of God, we must be marked by love. The Beatles had it right, all we need is love. The Bible says it this way:

1 John 4:7-8

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

This Valentine Day, we must make a choice to love, for those who love are born of God. Those who love know God. So love is vital to every believer. If we do not love, we do not know God. All we need is love. **(Hold Bible up)** That is what the Bible is all about Love. All we need is Love. **Say it** with me All we Need is Love.

Obviously, we are going to talk about love today. We are going to look at:

1. What is love?
2. Who do we love?
3. How do we love?

Where Love Started

It is important to note that Love started with God!

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God is love! He who does not love, does not know God. I'm not sure it can be more plain than that. We are a people called to love. That is who we are. If you are wondering what God wants you to do, He wants you to love.

What is love?

1 Corinthians 13 gives us the Biblical definition of what love is.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails.

One way to know if you are a person who loves, is to insert your name for "love". For example, Dave suffers long and is kind. We can stop right there before I get sick. I hope you get the picture. Now that we know what love is, I guess the important question is, "Who do we love?"

Who do we love?

Jesus tells us whom we are to love as His disciples.

1. God
2. Neighbor
3. Other Disciples

God

Matthew 22 and Mark 12 tells us that Jesus was being questioned by the religious leaders. They were trying to trip him up in His word, hoping he might make a mistake.

Turn to Mark 12:28 (This PP does not need passage, just reference)

²⁸ *Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving^[d] that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"*

²⁹ *Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.' ³⁰ And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'^[e] This is the first commandment.*

Our love for God includes:

1. Heart: True character or personality
2. Soul: Breath
3. Mind: Thought capacity, understanding and reason
4. Strength: Bodily powers

Basically, our love for God is personal, comprehensive, and wholehearted. We could say love God with everything you got.

1. Heart: (Touch Heart) It is easy to love God in this setting. It is more difficult to love God when no one is around. However, we are to love God with our heart. We must love him with who we really are, our true character. We cannot fake it.
2. Soul: (touch mouth) Is our very breath or self conscience life. My life
3. Mind: (touch head) is our understanding and reason. We must love God up here in our minds. Our thought patterns, we must take every thought captive.
4. Strength: (Make a muscle) Power and physical ability to do things.

We must love God with everything we got and hold nothing back. Too often, I hold back because I am afraid of what people may think or say. I don't raise my hands because of fear and use the excuse that I don't want to hinder the person behind me from singing. That does not matter! Let us purpose to love God with everything we got.

Neighbor

Jesus goes on to say in that same passage:

Turn to Mark 12

^[i] ³¹ *And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* ^[g] *There is no other commandment greater than these."*

I believe it is easy to love God and more difficult to love my neighbor like myself.

What does that mean? Who is my neighbor? Jesus answered this question in:

Turn to Luke 10:25

²⁵ *And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"*

²⁶ *He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"*

²⁷ *So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' ^[h] and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "* ^[i]

²⁸ *And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."*

²⁹ *But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

³⁰ *Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, ^[j] he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and*

*said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'*³⁶ *So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"*

³⁷ *And he said, "He who showed mercy on him."
Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."*

Our neighbor is anyone to whom we can show mercy. The religious leaders walked on by when they saw he was hurt. Maybe they were too busy, we don't know. A neighbor is one who helps another in their time of need. This is regardless of race or background. The Jews and Samaritans did not get along. However, that does not stop the Samaritan from helping the man from Jerusalem. Who can you be a neighbor to this day?

We are to love God and love our neighbor.

Other Disciples

Jesus, after he washed the disciples feet at the last supper, he said, “

John 13

³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* ³⁵ *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

So lastly we are to love other disciples. People will know we are Jesus' disciples by our love for each other. You know what breaks my heart, when believers are nasty to each other. When there is hate amongst us. I think of how much damage has been done by church splits. It does a lot of damage.

I believe when people walk in here, they realize we are His disciples because of our love for one another. Love is vital in the life of a believer. We should be characterized by it. All we need is Love. Love is what sets us apart. We love, because he first loved us.

Serve

How do we show our love? We show our love through service. That is what we see Jesus do over and over. Matt 20:28 Jesus came to serve. At the last supper Jesus demonstrates it by washing the disciples feet. Then he said this:

Turn to John 13

¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Jesus served, the good Samaritan served. We must serve! **Say it** with me, We must serve! Service is proof of our love. We do it out of love for Jesus and not out of obligation. We serve because we are loved by the Father, not because we have to. You can always tell when someone is serving out of obligation. They mutter under their breath. You can always tell someone who serve out of love. It is a beautiful thing to see someone serve out of love with no string attached.

Say it with me:

All we need is love

We need to serve

Pray:

Vow Renewal:

Marriage is a picture of the love we are talking about. We all have the opportunity to love the Lord our God with everything we have. In marriage, you have the opportunity to love your neighbor or spouse as yourself, as well as love other disciples and serve on a daily basis.

In addition, marriage is a picture of Christ's love for his church. Today we are going to renew our marriage vows before the Lord and each other. I am going to invite all married couple to walk down here towards the front and I am going to lead you in a vow renewal. While this song plays, you come.

WEDDING VOWS

Men repeat after me:

Wife's Name: _____ I love you! I promise before God and these gathered at CWC to continually be your faithful husband, to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and in health, to forgive and strengthen you, and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

Women repeat after me:

Husband's Name: _____ I love you! I promise before God and these gathered at CWC to continually be your faithful wife, to share with you in plenty and in

want, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and in health, to forgive and strengthen you, and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

THE RING CEREMONY

Look at your rings.

A ring reminds us of two things.

First, the ring is a circle. Circles never end. Difficult times will come, but the commitment of Christians is to make their marriage go on forever. The ring, which is a circle, is a reminder of that never-ending commitment.

Also, rings are made out of a precious metal, usually silver or gold, which has the unusual quality of getting better and more valuable with age. Instead of wearing out and deteriorating, we pray for your love to grow and improve with age.

Hold your ring and repeat after me:

With this ring, I will always remember my commitment before God and to you in this marriage. Amen

BENEDICTION

Romans 15:5-6

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

Since you are once again committing yourselves to a lifelong love, before God and these witnesses, and since you have agreed to meet the needs of each other as long as you both live, and you have made your intentions public, acting in the authority vested in me by God and his church, I now pronounce you husband and wife. “What God has joined together, let no man separate.”

CLOSING:

Men, You may kiss your bride.