

SERMON: The Balance of Genuine Love

July 28, 2019

SERIES: Love Your Enemies

SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

THE GOAL: The primary goal of a small group at Grace is to develop a Christian community where Jesus is experienced through the gospel.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS: Use these questions to explore how God is at work in our families, communities, workplaces, and church.

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?
2. What temptations have you been facing this week? How is God delivering you?
3. How have you experienced God's grace this week?
4. In what ways are you growing in your love for God?
5. In what ways are you growing in your love for others?
6. Have you started or stopped something this week just because you love Jesus?

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1-3,9; Micah 6:6-8.

SERMON OUTLINE: I. Balancing justice and mercy. II. Balancing your inner and outer response. III. The balance of the cross

REVIEW: Use these questions to better understand and apply the passage/sermon.

Observation: as a group talk through and summarize the passage. Think through Who, What, Where, When, How, Why questions together.

Interpretation: answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?
3. What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace?
4. How does this passage point to Christ?

Application: answer these questions together:

1. How does this passage convict you? Encourage you? Inspire you?
2. What specific truth do you see about God (his grace? love? holiness?) and how would your life be different if you really believed it?
3. By God's grace, what commitments do you need to make this week? Or, what do you need to start obeying/believing?

GO DEEPER: Use these questions to go deeper into the passage, minds, and hearts.

1. Do you tend to lean toward justice or mercy? Is it hard for you to balance the two? Why or why not?
 2. Restorative justice is the idea that God not only forgives but he also seeks to restore everyone and make things right (rectification). Why is it important that God both forgives and rectifies?
 3. For there to be justice or rectification there needs to be both confrontation (this is how you hurt me) and acknowledgment (I'm sorry that I hurt you in this way). Why are both important for reconciliation? Is there someone that you need to confront about a wrong that has been done? Is there some wrong that you need to acknowledge?
 4. Romans 12:9 tells us to hate what is evil and cling to what is good? Can you think of a specific place in your life where this should be applied? Why is this only possible if we are humble (Micah 6:8) and sincere (no hypocrisy) (Rom. 12:9)?
 5. We said that the cross balanced justice and mercy. Jesus died as both the victimizer (deserving justice) and victim (deserving mercy). How does this truth comfort you today? How does it empower you to hate evil and cling to good?
- Prayer: Praise God for his just and merciful death on the cross. Confess areas where you to confront or acknowledge wrong doing. Ask God to allow you to hate evil while clinging to good.