

LOVE ON TRIAL

Love is proved by our actions, not merely by our words.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ This is the year we put our Love on Trial. We all need to put ourselves on the stand and allow the word of God to judge us.
- ❖ Romans 2:15 reminds us of the court of conscience in our hearts, where all our actions are weighed and either “accused or ... excused.”
- ❖ In similar fashion, we need to establish a “Love Court” where all our thoughts, words and actions are consistently tried to ensure that we are living the lives of love Jesus prescribed for us in John 13:34-35.
- ❖ John followed up with a long discourse on love in one of his own letters (see 1 John 4:7-8, 11-12, 16, 20-21). Christian love, simply, is when we consciously:
 - Say to others what we would like people to say to us
 - We pay attention to and acknowledge others as we would wish to be acknowledged
 - We do *to* others and *for* others what we would like done for us
 - We care for others as we would wish everyone to care for us
 - We think about others as we would wish them to think about us
 - We inconvenience ourselves for others as we would hope others would inconvenience themselves for us if there was ever a need.
- ❖ When questioned by the lawyer in Luke 10 on who ‘his neighbor’ was, Jesus answered with the powerful parable we call “The Parable of the Good Samaritan.”
- ❖ The despised Samaritan Jesus chose as His main character showed the lawyer what he needed to practice:
 - An observant love: “he saw him” (v.33)
 - A compassionate love: “he had compassion” (v.33)
 - A barrier-breaking love: “a certain Samaritan” (v.33); “went to him (a Jew)” (v.34)
 - An involved love: “bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine” (v.34)
 - An inconvenient love: “set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him” (v. 34)
 - A time-consuming love: “on the next day... he departed” (v.35)
 - A costly love: “he took out two denarii” (v.35)
 - An ongoing love: “when I come again” (v.35)
- ❖ This is love of the highest order—self-giving, “*agape*” love.
- ❖ We often think of 1 Corinthians 13 as Paul’s “love chapter,” but it isn’t the only place where he gives us a good love lesson.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Luke 10:25-37; John 13:34-35

- ❖ He said in Romans 12:9-10, 13:

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another...¹³distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.
- ❖ However, instead of the passive statement “[Let] love [be] without hypocrisy,” we would get the real power of the verse if we read it the way Paul most likely intended it to be read: “Love without hypocrisy!”
- ❖ Let’s review with some simple questions we can use for cross examination in our Love Court:
 - Am I treating *all* of my brothers and sisters the way in which I wish them to treat me?
 - Do I go *directly* to a brother or sister *in private* when I have a dispute with them?
 - Do I listen with an open heart and open ears to a brother or sister who thinks differently than I do? Do I love them enough to listen and consider what they have to say?
 - Is there anyone in our church I don’t speak to because I hate them?
 - Have I sincerely apologized to those I know I have wronged? (A sincere apology is only effective when the *recipient* deems it to be sincere.)
- ❖ We have looked at tools we can use as we put our Love on Trial, but we can summarize it all into one easy-to-remember phrase. Let’s memorize the words of Jesus: “...whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them....” (Matthew 7:12).

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Use the questions asked in the lesson to put your love “on trial.” What question(s) can you give the biggest “yes” to? Why?
2. What area(s) do you deem “need(s) improvement”? Can you or group members think of ways you can try to do so?
3. In general, do you give yourself a passing/failing grade when it comes to consciously exhibiting Christian love? Why?

Prayer Time

Lord, as I put my love on trial, help me to be honest with myself—to tell the whole truth—so that I may know what areas to work on.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Start-up: Have you ever been summoned for jury duty or been in a court room? What was the experience like for you?

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS:

F.S. Ministries: Departments, Directors and participants
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/weprayatfaithsanctuary/>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT

With approval from Head of Department, send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by 4:00 p.m., Wednesday (copy media@faithsanctuary.com if projection is desired).



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Date: Sunday, January 13th

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Sanctuary

Contact: Pastor G. McKenzie

FS CHILDREN'S FRENCH CLUB

Date: Friday, January 18th

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Downstairs chapel

If you have a child or children aged 4 to 12 who would like to join, please sign-up

at <https://surveymonkey.com/r/DFFM3H7>

or pick up a form in the lobby.

Contact: Sis. Jodelle Tan or Sis. Maude Chalifour

MIDNIGHT PRAYER

Date: Friday, January 18th

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Place: Prayer Room and Main Sanctuary

Contact: Sis. E. Berbick

ReVive! YOUTH NIGHT

Date: Friday, January 18th

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Lower Chapel

Please bring your friends and be blessed!

Contact: Bro. Ryan McKenzie

LIFE GROUP LEADERS' MEETING

Date: Sunday, January 20th

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room

Contact: Bro. Burnie Spence

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JANUARY 13, 2019


S A N C T U A R Y
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2019~ the year of love on trial~ 2019

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."

Romans 13:8 NKJV

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

1901 Jane St, Toronto, Ontario M9N 3T9

Phone: 416-244-4898

Email: mail@faithsanctuary.com

Website: www.faitsanctuary.com