

PRACTICE LOVE

Love is a component of the fruit of the Spirit that we must utilize and practice every day.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ When we read about the fruit of the Spirit at the end of Galatians 5, we see that the leading component of the fruit is love. And as to our top priority as far as keeping the laws of God is concerned, Matthew 22:37-40 tells us that there are really only two we need to be concerned about: 1) Love God with everything within you, and 2) Love your neighbour as yourself.
- ❖ Everything we do should be built upon the foundation of love.
- ❖ The apostle John was in the 'inner circle' of disciples who were closest to Jesus. We always hear of "Peter, James and John," and out of the three, John was the one who seems to have had the closest emotional attachment to Jesus. John is often described as the 'apostle of love', and the one "whom Jesus loved" (John 21:20).
- ❖ So, when we think about the fact that we need to 'practice love' on a daily basis, it is helpful to hear what John has to say.
- ❖ He states that if we say we know the Lord but don't keep His commandments, we are liars. Now, that's pretty straight talk! On the other hand, he says, if we keep the word of God, His love is perfected in us (1 John 2:4-5).
- ❖ At the beginning of 1 John 4 (v. 4-10), John speaks of the difference between those who 'practice' sin and those who 'practice' righteousness. Here we see that we really are engaged in a Christian 'practice'; the practice of righteousness and love.
- ❖ 1 John 3:10 says the following:
In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.
- ❖ Let us presume that it is the desire of each and every one of us to be known in our circles as being a child of God. In order for this to be accomplished, it demands that we practice righteousness at all times!
- ❖ This is where our main scripture (1 John 4:7-12, 17-21) comes in.
- ❖ It is a good thing to honour those who have been practicing their love for God and for their brothers and sisters in Christ since the Covid-19 pandemic began and we want to do so.
- ❖ Our practice of love is fully displayed in the way we treat each other, especially during this season of concerns and restrictions. There are so many examples of people 'practicing love':
 - In your own homes, many of you have had the opportunity to show love to your family members in the many kind acts of service you have done.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

1 John 2:4-5, 3:4-10, 4:7-12, 17-21

- Some of you have been buying groceries and medication for others outside your home and taking people to doctor's appointments, etc.
- Some have come to the house of God week after week to give of their time, talent, energy and finances, to bring worship and the word of God to our congregation by way of live stream. You have done this with joy and total commitment to make sure we could still gather together virtually even though we couldn't gather physically.
- ❖ These may seem like simple things, but you have been practicing love and these are important aspects of your 'love practice.'
- ❖ None of you have been doing what you have done for others, at home or at church, for a pay cheque, but rather as a labour of love. Your work has been seen and is greatly appreciated!
- ❖ Love has to be the foundation of everything we do, as it is the foundation of everything God does.
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. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17)
- ❖ Love is more than mere words. Love is action. We must pursue the practice of love with the same devotion that any skilled professional shows in the practice of their profession.
- ❖ Jesus practiced love all the way to Calvary. His thought was never about His own good or having His own way. It was all about giving us the great opportunity to enjoy life in His presence and in His kingdom, forever.
- ❖ Therefore, our practice of love must focus on helping others see the beauty and wonder of living as God's children and introducing them to Jesus.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Are there instances where others have shown you love/kind acts? What were they and was it something expected/unexpected? How have these acts of love displayed God's love?
2. In what way has your practice of love changed—either for the better or for the worse—during this time we're going through?
3. What does the Bible say about honing our "love skills"? Provide scripture references.

PRAYER TIME

Lord, help me to display love to everybody I encounter, so that Your beauty may be seen in me.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020

NOTES

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

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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

Start-up: Is there something you do very well or have a talent for? Did this ability take time and practice? How much practice?

"WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/weprayatfaithsanctuary/>
PRAYER FOCUS: U.P.C.I. Ontario District departments, leaders,
participants



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY

Sunday 5: FIRST SERVICE BACK IN THE SANCTUARY—
WELCOME BACK!

To register for in-person Sunday services:

- Visit www.faithsanctuary.com and click the link provided at the top of the homepage
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithsanctuarytoronto/events
- Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com/e/july-5-2020-sunday-morning-service-tickets-110443601786

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

You're my brother, you're my sister
So take me by the hand
Together we will work until He comes
There's no foe that can defeat us
When we're walking side by side
As long as there is love we will stand

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES:

Bible Study — 10:15 a.m.
Morning service — 11:00 a.m.

- o Go to www.faithsanctuary.com >click "livestream" link (or type in www.faithsanctuary/live)
 - o Go to www.youtube.com >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
 - o Sign in to Facebook >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone access

In-depth Bible Study: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Facebook and Zoom)

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).

JULY 5, 2020

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also."
1 John 4:21 NKJV*

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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