

Topic: Address to Love
Goals: Gain understanding, Obtain direction, Gain confidence

Introduction

Our Senior Pastor, Rod delivered a message a few Sundays back regarding the horizontal relationship wherein he expressed some things about love. One of the nuggets from that message presented a new perspective regarding the 1 Peter 4:8 scripture that states, “love covers over a multitude of sin”. He said that loving horizontally is likened to erasing some things from our lists of personally committed shortcomings/sin. I know for a fact that there were some who experienced deliverance and freedom from “the past” when that word connected with their spirit and I know many were encouraged in their love walk by the message.

Sister Lequandra conducted a leadership training a Sunday or so back regarding church hurt and how it was our responsibility, as members of the Body of Christ, to reconcile those who’ve experienced church hurt back to the Body of Christ. It was also stated that love inspires us to do this and we execute on it from a place of love. I know many in that leadership training were encouraged to rise to the challenge of the call of reconciliation.

Last Sunday, Minister Jennifer delivered a message wherein she spoke of how parents should set the standard of expectation for their kids and challenge their kids to excel. As parents we are to push our children to be the best version of themselves. Parents who love their children, and have understanding, do this.

Undoubtedly, the Lord has the body of KFIC focused on love. Truth be told, He’s always had a love centric message for His children, the Body of Christ. We are not in a “season” of love or a “season” of His teaching us about love. If anything, He has us more focused on it to prepare us and/or to simply get us to a place we should be. This message regarding our purposefulness to love needs to be a part of our perpetual meditation.

This Kingdom Men’s Iron Sharpening Iron session is also focused on love and will center on a particular aspect of love. It is an aspect of love we, *especially as men*, are expected to exemplify but can find very difficult...arguably more difficult today than any other time in the history of modern civilization. Tonight’s session is focused on ***loving by addressing things***.

Presentation

Defining what we’re talking about...

Address - It’s not about where you live...but it’s about where you are.

Address:

- speak to (a person or an assembly), typically in a formal way
- say or write remarks or a protest to (someone)
- think about and begin to deal with (an issue or problem) *

You may be familiar with these types of **address**:

Rebuke	Confront	Reprimand	Give feedback	Chasten
Challenge	Correct	Follow up	Have critical conversation	

There are various approaches and nuances to this topic but **Address** (addressing things) is the word being used to describe the *category* of love we’re discussing.

First, a look at Love

As a verb, Love occurs as an action. When we convey love, it can only be conveyed (by us) to the recipient by what we **do**. It's good to speak the words of love...they leave a nice warm feeling and feed the emotions. Performing the acts of love infuses a confidence, security, and peace in the recipient among other good things. A piece of heaven is experienced when both are done.

Believers loving one another is not only a good thing to do but is also very much a directive by God:
John 13:34-35 John 15:9-17 Mark 12:29-31 1 John 4:21

Walking in the call to love has benefits as well (just a few below):

- Love covers a multitude of sin (1 Peter 4:8)
- Evidence we are born of God and know God (1 John 4:7)
- Binds virtues in perfect unity (Colossians 3:14)
- Puts fear on its heels (1 John 4:18)

God left instructions in His Word for how to love (just a few below):

- 1 Corinthians 13
- Romans 12:9-10
- Proverbs 17:17
- Ephesians 4:2-3

God has directed us to love, given us instructions how to love, and provided us with the indwelling of Holy Spirit to walk it out. We can do this!!!

Continue your own exhaustive study on love and maintain a daily regimen of meditating on God's Word regarding love. Purposing to love should be a definitive part of our morning, every morning.

Addressing things

Address:

- ~speak to (a person or an assembly), typically in a formal way
- ~say or write remarks or a protest to (someone)
- ~think about and begin to deal with (an issue or problem) *

An element of love we find ourselves having to walk in, and actually needing to walk in, that can be very challenging to execute on sometimes, is *addressing* things with others.

There are times we observe (or it's spiritually revealed) a potential or actual misstep regarding a brother or sister in the Lord and we feel compelled to address the matter. Sometimes that misstep is a wrong done towards us...sometimes it's an observed or learned wrong done towards others. It could also be an incorrect perspective the person has.

Poll from brothers about things they find difficult to address

- "How to not offend folks with alternative lifestyles. Showing love while making sure they understand I don't approve of the lifestyle they chose."
- "Telling a person to follow God."
- "Telling a lady that you're not interested in her even though she tries to shower you with attention."
- "Telling the truth verses loving your brother."
- "Telling someone who, as their Pastor from their youth, that the church he and his new wife are about to join is a spiritually unhealthy situation that's going to block their ministry potential and stunt their growth spiritually."

Personal inventory

Write down the top 3 things you personally have had difficulty addressing with someone:

1)

2)

3)

I remember hearing a Pastor say in a sermon within the last few months that he was going to start addressing men of his church about various things he's observed and wasn't going to be concerned about whether or not they got upset or remained with the church.

What are your thoughts about addressing things arguably being more difficult today than any other time in the history of modern civilization?

List some reasons we choose not to address things with people:

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-
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The healthy and productive addressing of things with people takes knowledge, yielding to the Holy Spirit, love, courage, and clearly defining the desired outcome.

(Optional) Testimony about positive situation with addressing a matter with someone -OR- someone addressing a matter with you.

Things to help us exercise the love of **address**:

- Addressing could be considered a directive (Matthew 18:15, Matthew 5:23)
- Do it with love (1 Corinthians 16:14)
- Remembering that loving is a commandment and the subject of the 2 greatest commandments. (John 13:34-35, John 15:9-17, Mark 12:29-31, 1 John 4:21)
- Know that rebuke is considered a good thing. (Proverbs 27:5)
- Be humble and address from a place of gentleness/meekness (Galatians 6:1)
- Begin with the end in mind...think about the desired outcome (7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Stephen Covey)
- Follow after the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-17, 22)
- Be encouraged to do good (Galatians 6:7-10)
- Let the fact that it sets a good example for your household and community encourage you. (Matthew 5:14-16, 1 Timothy 4:12)
- Know you have what it takes to do it (2 Timothy 1:7)
- You are blessed (Matthew 5:9)
- Without knowing the outcome, you do it by faith (Romans 1:17)
- Know that the outcome could result in a cleaning of their thinking (Romans 12:18-21)
- Put yourself in their shoes and image the words you choose and the way you say them being spoken to you (Matthew 7:12)

Practice

Concluding thoughts and Close

Let us put this into practice starting amongst ourselves as brothers in this house and pray and watch the Lord enlarge our territory in this area.