**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. \_ \_ December 19, 2021**

**Would You Pass The LOVE Test?**

Mark 12:28-34

**Key Truth:** Following Christ means loving God and loving others.

**Loving God Is Not:**

1. A feeling.

2. Is not just believing God exist.

3. Knowing Biblical information.

**Loving God Is:**

1. Love is the foundational characteristic of Christianity.

 A. It starts with an undivided love for God.

 B. Our obedience to Jesus is proof we love Him. **John 14:15**

 C. Daily choosing God over the enticement of the world.

 **1 John 2:15-16**

2. Love is a conscience decision backed by action.

 A. It works itself out in our daily interactions with others.

 **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

 B. Our love and compassion towards humanity is our defining

 witness.

 C. There is no such thing as a hateful Christian. **1 John 4:20**

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for the love He’s shown us in sending Jesus to die for us. Pray that He would help us to love well, to love Him with our whole being, and to love others as ourselves.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What are some ways you’ve seen the word “love” used that fall short of the biblical meaning?

One tangible way to better understand love in action is through a concept/tool developed by Gary Chapman called, “Love Languages.” The 5 Love Languages are:

•  Acts of Service (kind or thoughtful deeds done for someone)

•  Words of Affirmation (words to appreciate or uplift people)

•  Quality Time (receiving another person’s undivided attention)

 •  Receiving Gifts (getting tangible gifts)

•  Physical Touch (appropriate touch i.e. holding hands, hugging, sitting side-by-side)

Of the list above, are there one to two that seem to fit you the best?

The final component of Jesus’ great commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. Why does it matter so much that we love others?

In Jesus’ conversation with the Sadducees (Mark 12:24) where Jesus tells them they do not know the scriptures. How could James 1:21-25 have helped the Sadducees see the importance of God’s Word and also help us grow as followers of Jesus today?

How does 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 challenge the version of love we see in culture today?

What are some tangible expressions of God’s kind of love you might practice this week: At your workplace? In your home? With your friends? In your neighborhood?

Is there someone in particular in your life who most needs to know the love of Christ? What can you do to demonstrate God’s love to them today?