**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr March 10, 2024**

**Jesus Silences His Critics Part 3**

Matthew 22:34-40

**Key Truth:** From Jesus’ perspective, love for God and for others is the foundation of the disciple’s life and practice.

**Understanding Biblical Love:**

1. Love isn’t about how we feel or what we believe. James 2:14-19

2. Love is a choice backed by action. 1 John 3:16-18

**What Does Loving God Look Like:** Deuteronomy 6:4-15

1. Recognizing that God exist and that we exist for His pleasure.

2. To allow God to fully reside uninhibited in our heart, soul,

 and mind.

3. To live with God fully present in your day-to-day life.

4. To love God is to give Him your total allegiance and

 obedience.

**What Does Loving Your Neighbor Look Like:** Leviticus 19:9-18

1. To be fully present and sensitive to what God is doing in the

 lives of others.

2. Being gracious, compassionate, and generous to others with

 no strings attached.

3. Truly loving your neighbor crosses ethnic and religious

 barriers. Luke 10:25-37

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** As disciples, let’s live a life characterized by love for God and love for neighbors. Thank God for His love that gives you the opportunity to love Him and love others. Ask God to give you opportunities to demonstrate love to others this week.

**Connection Group Homework:**

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

How do you know if you love someone or something? What factors indicate your love for that person or thing?

In our world the word like/love is used interchangeably. However, there is a big difference between like and love. Can you describe the difference between the two?

Read Romans 13:8-10: Paul quoted Jesus when he challenged the Christians in Rome to love one another well.

What commandments did Paul put under loving one’s neighbor?

How does Paul’s concept of love differ from today’s popular notions?

How would you sum up what it means to love your neighbor? How are your relationships impacted when you follow this command?

Read 1 John 3:16-18: Do you find Jesus’ command easy or difficult to follow when your neighbors don’t apply the principle too? Why?

What in your life distracts you from loving God and loving others?