

OUTWARD RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

Recap:

- What does our heart look like in four key relationships. How can we find meaning and purpose in and through these relationships?
 - 1) Upward – My relationship with God
 - Mark 12:29-30 – 29 Jesus answered, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’
 - How do we build a relationship with God?
 - i. Not by our good deeds, but by receiving His love. Just like a father gives love to a son, our heavenly Father gives us love. In fact, we love because He first loved us! 1 John 4:19. Take time daily to sit God’s love for you and be aware of it! Enjoy His presence. He enjoys yours!
 - 2) Inward – My relationship with myself
 - James 1:22-25 - 22 But be sure you live out the message and do not merely listen to it and so deceive yourselves. 23 For if someone merely listens to the message and does not live it out, he is like someone who gazes at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he gazes at himself and then goes out and immediately forgets what sort of person he was. 25 But the one who peers into the perfect law of liberty and fixes his attention there, and does not become a forgetful listener but one who lives it out—he will be blessed in what he does.
 - 3) Outward – My relationship with others
 - 4) Downward – My relationship with creation
- What is our Heart? It’s the seat of our intellect, emotions, desires, and attractions
 - What does the Bible say about our hearts?
 - Jeremiah 17:9-10 - *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? 10 “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”*
 - Do we sometimes have divided hearts? Are my thoughts, emotions and desires in sync?
 - Psalm 86:11-12 - *Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.*
 - What is the answer to a wicked heart?
 - *Prov 4:23 – Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*
 - How do you guard your heart? Repentance – what is this?
 - Psalm 51:10-12 – *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*
 - Repentance: The decision and action of leaving what God has prohibited and returning to what he has commanded

Outward Relationship – My Relationship with Others

- What does love look like today in our culture?
 - Eros Love: Temporary. Driven by emotions, based on our feelings. Often-changing. Selfish.
- What kind of love does God have for us?
 - Agape Love: the fatherly love of God for humans. It is selfless and sacrificial in nature. Based upon choice and action not by feelings. The highest form of love! Never-ending and unconditional!
 - *John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*
 - *John 15:13 No one has greater love than this—that one lays down his life for his friends.*

- What kind of Love does he desire we have for each other?
 - Philia Love: brotherly type of love between others, namely Christians. A friend, someone dearly loved (prized). Deep relationships. Think of the second commandment!
 - “Don’t allow self-promotion to hide in your hearts, but in authentic humility put others first and view others as more important than yourselves” Phil 2:3-5
 - By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.” John 13:35
- Is there a barometer/thermometer that can help us measure the health of our relationship with God and ourselves?
 - If so what does that look like? Do our hearts affect how we relate to others?
 - *1 John 4:7-8: Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been fathered by God and knows God. 8 The person who does not love does not know God because God is love.*

Switching Gears: Tools and Application

- *A meditation of God’s Love – Agape 1 Cor 13*
 - *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but I do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away everything I own, and if I give over my body in order to boast, but do not have love, I receive no benefit. 4 Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-serving, it is not easily angered or resentful. 6 It is not glad about injustice, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. But if there are prophecies, they will be set aside; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be set aside. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, 10 but when what is perfect comes, the partial will be set aside. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. But when I became an adult, I set aside childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror indirectly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.*
- *1 Thess 5:16-18 – 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
 - Where and When do I do this?
 - What does self-awareness look like?
 - We need Solitude to do this well.
 - Psalm 46: vs 1 and vs 10 – vs 1 - *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.- vs 10 -Be still, and know that I am God.*
 - Mark 1:35 – *And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.*
 - Luke 6:12-13 - *In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. 13 And when day came he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:*