

## “Tis the Season”

“Make the most of every chance you get.

These are desperate times!” Ephesians 5:16 (The Message)

## “Tis the Season to Be Loving!”

“We love each other because He loved us first.”

1 John 4:19

### A. Love originated with God...

1. God is love.

“..because God is love.” 1 John 4:8b

2. Love comes from God.

“For love comes from God” 1 John 4:7b

3. God's love is evidenced in His sacrifice.

“This is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, that He will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

4. God's love for us is unconditional.

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” -St. Augustine

### B. Love is the trademark of us as followers of Jesus...

1. The first evidence of Jesus in us is how we love.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

2. In fact, it is commanded by Jesus.

“And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.” 1 John 3:23

3. When we do not love other believers, we are failing to show our relationship with God.

“So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.” 1 John 3:10

4. It is simple, if we have had a spiritual birth, then we love others.

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

### C. Love is...

1. Love is produced in us when we remain connected to Jesus.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” John 15:9

2. Love is given by us as we realize it is not an option and not a feeling, but a command.

“This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” John 15:12

3. Love is to be shared in the same way that you love yourself.

“Jesus replied, ‘The most important commandment is this: “Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.” The second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” No other commandment is greater than these.’” Mark 12:29-31

4. Love is to be given to those we love and to those we don't love...in fact, we are called to love unconditionally!

“You have heard the law that says, “Love your neighbor” and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.” Matthew 5:43-47

### D. Love will force us to do more...

1. Really love those in your world.

“Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.” Romans 12:9-10

2. Do more than talk when it comes to love.

“Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” 1 John 3:18

3. Love is demonstrating these qualities to those in your world.

“Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another. Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together.”

Ephesians 4:2-3

4. Love is always reminding us to love our neighbor or those we come in contact as we travel through our days.

“Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law.” Romans 13:8

### E. 'Tis the season to be loving...

1. Who will you love this week?

2. Be on guard for tangible ways to love someone in your world.

3. Pray that God will give you that person and open the doors to love someone to “life”!

4. Share with us how God gave you that opportunity!

“Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always “me first,”

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, The Message

*Seasonal Sermon Series:*

*“’Tis the Season...”*

*“Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!”*

*Ephesians 5:16 The Message*

*A Sermon Series Focusing on the Virtues of the Season*

*November 19, 2017 – To Be Thankful!*

*November 26, 2017 – To Be Merciful!*

*December 3, 2017 – To Be Kind!*

*December 10, 2017 – To Be Generous!*

*December 17, 2017 – To Be Compassionate!*

*December 24, 2017 – To Be Full of Faith!*

*December 31, 2017 – To Be Hopeful!*

*“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:35*

*“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8*

*“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:43-48*