



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#15

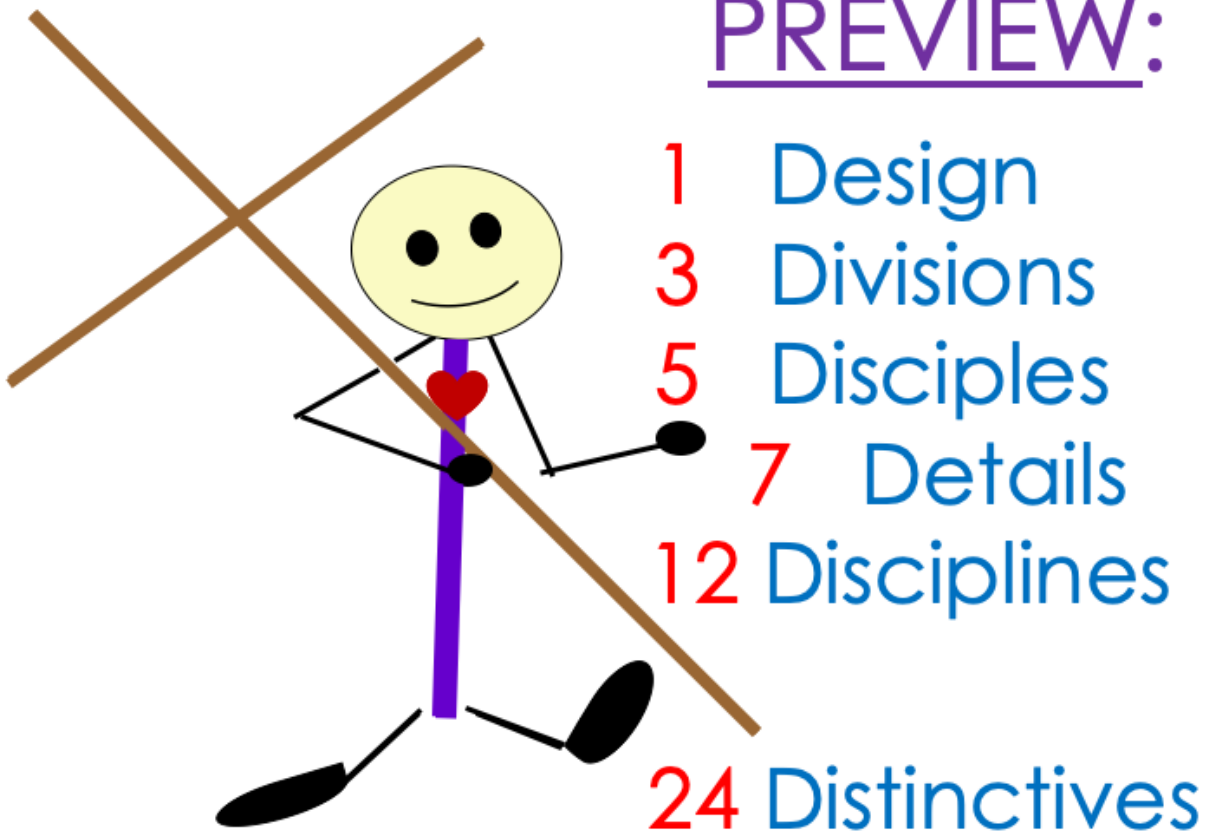
FAMILY

Acts 2:46

(Come And See Christianity book pages 50-51)

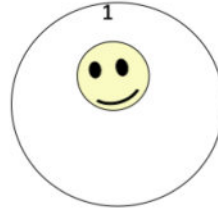
The FLOW

PREVIEW:



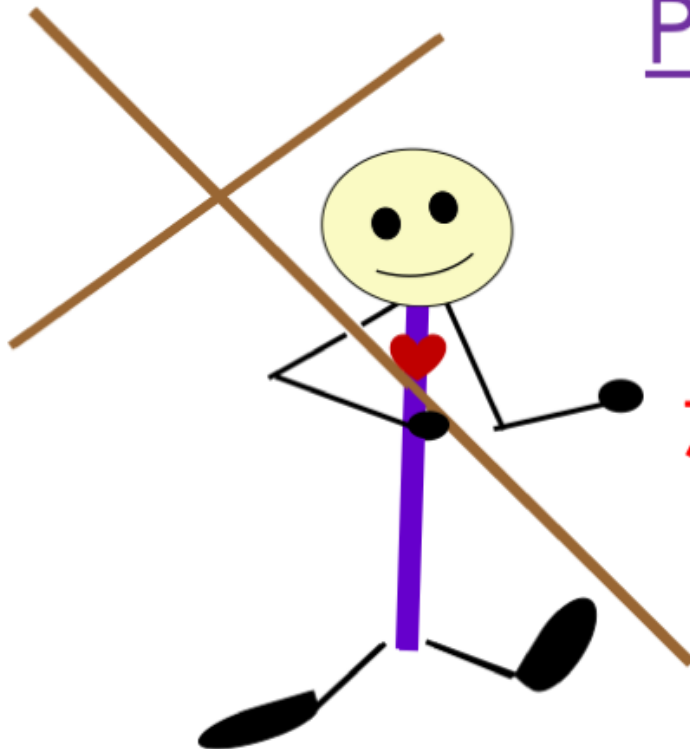
SECTION FOUR: 7 Details

The
HEAD

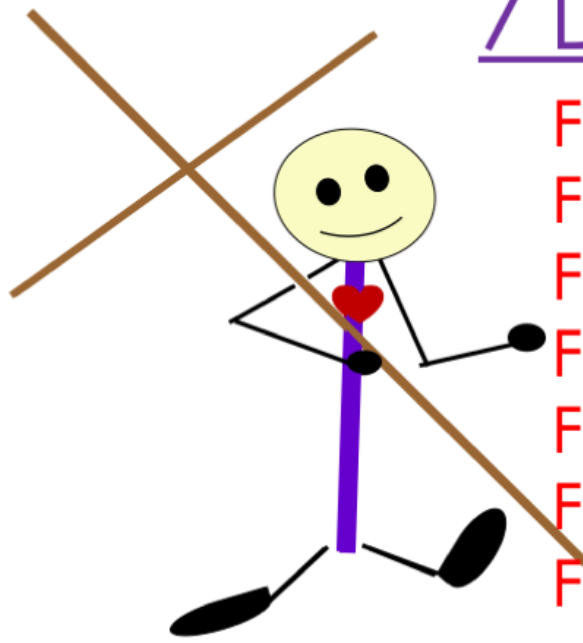


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PREVIEW:



7 Details



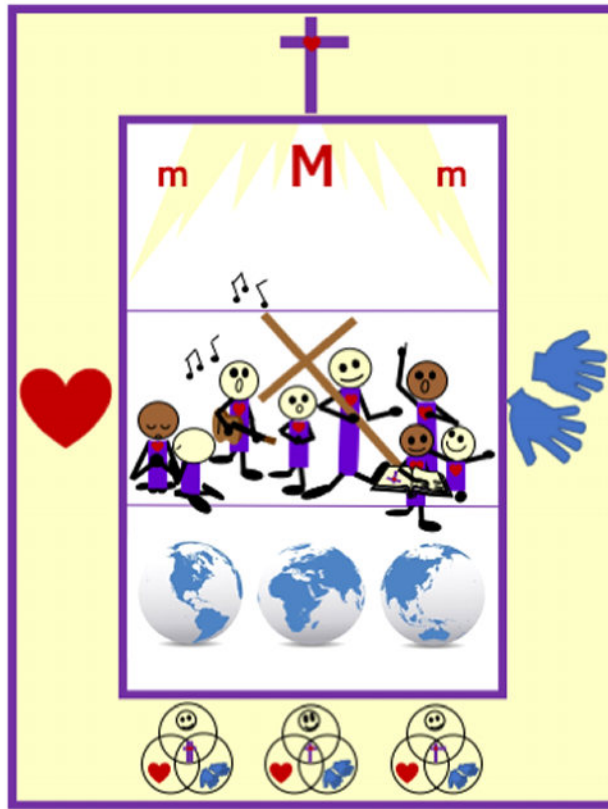
7 Details:

Foundations
Framework
Facts
Fight
Faith
Family
Forever

7 DETAILS: The divine is in the details... Here we have what we also call **The Fundamentals**, that which explains the core & comprehensive truths of Christianity, as well as a biblical worldview.

The FUNDAMENTALS

We have described the 7
“details” as 7 “Fundamentals,”
each one beginning with
the letter “F” ...to help you
to remember them :-)



The Family

The FAMILY:

God's family is to live in beautiful and convicting contrast to culture...
We LOVE UP, IN, & OUT,
 while exemplifying Christ-like, selfless service, all while living in supernatural unity.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

INTRO:

Welcome to Come And See Christianity's section four, "**The DETAILS.**" At this point, we have already established in sections 1-3 that Almighty God has "1 Divine DESIGN" (found in His authentic biblical worldview) for all of creation. Next, we addressed the fact that every human being is made up of "3 DIVISIONS," their HEAD, HEART, and HANDS (also known as their beliefs, their beloved, and their behaviors). From there, we moved on to the "5 DISCIPLES," the LOST, LOVERS, LEARNERS, LEADERS, and LIFERS, which proved that Christianity accounts for, with definitions and descriptions, ALL people... past, present, and future, from ALL parts of the world – bar none.

With our Creator and all His image-bearing (Genesis 1:27) creatures accounted for, the next logical step on the narrow path of understanding will concentrate on the sure-footedness of core, non-negotiable, and eternally essential content. In short, **we need to know what we need to know.**

To that end, The DETAILS will define and describe, in a broad and biblical context, (7) seven progressive principles of God's truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) that serve to engage, explain, equip, empower, and exemplify the fundamentals of Christianity. Herein, we will unveil and unpack a comprehensive summary and cohesive overview of God's biblical blueprint for understanding His created reality. Having said that, in moving forward, to help paint the fuller portrait of genuine Christianity, each DETAIL will receive its own lesson. Herein, we will focus on #6, **The FAMILY.**

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

When it comes to learning about Christ, Christianity, and the biblical Church, relatively speaking, a thousand lifetimes filled with devoted study would not dig through the endless depths of God's divine grace, gospel, and glory. Frankly (and thankfully), the fullness of Creator Christ is far beyond our ability to fully comprehend. To quote Him directly and prove the point, hear Almighty God, "*Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations?*" (Job 38:4). In short, we need to maintain a sense of genuine awe and reverent fear (1 Peter 1:17) when it comes to loving and learning about the LORD.

At the same time, the character, commands, and commissioning of the living God, Christianity's Christ and King, compels us to draw near to Him (James 4:8) with the promise that He will draw near to us. Moreover, the God of the Bible promises that He has miraculously given all true Christians "*everything needed for life and godliness*" (2 Peter 1:3), which includes an anointed understanding of His Word, will, and ways (1 Corinthians 2:14).

NOTE: the unification and blessed tension of the two paragraphs above can be harmonized when one realizes how these truths complement each other. On one hand, there are (7) fundamental details that share a progressive and straight-forward, principle-based explanation of Christianity. And, at the same time, all (7) have a divine depth and truth-filled treasure that is both bottomless and priceless – Amen!

Christianity's 7 DETAILS or FUNDAMENTALS:

1. *The FOUNDATIONS*
2. *The FRAMEWORK*
3. *The FACTS*
4. *The FIGHT*
5. *The FAITH*
6. *The FAMILY*
7. *FOREVER*

*I seek the will of the Spirit of God through or in connection with the Word of God.
The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone
without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also.*

- George Mueller

Christians don't tell lies they just go to church and sing them.

- A. W. Tozer

Ouch! That is a tough quote to lead into a lesson on God's FAMILY... True. But then again, "truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15) calls for loving truth to be told – no matter what. Moreover, when it comes to God's FAMILY, it is time to stop rationalizing and justifying the "fun" in the FAMILY's disfunction. Instead, Christ's professing church needs a check-up, an internal inspection, a biblical building Inspector to walk through the hallways of our HEADs, HEARTs, and HANDs, checking to see whether or not we are actually, individually, and collectively "building to code."

At the risk of breaking stride and altering expectations, it is important to highlight, right from the start, that God's Word, will, and ways are under attack when it comes to defining and describing authentic Christianity, biblical Church, and the FAMILY of God. Consequently, our lesson, like those prior, will continue to build upon the previous DETAILS/FUNDAMENTALS. To be clear, when it comes to The FAMILY of God, we will be talking about the human fruit of The FAITH/Gospel and the grace-based, blood-bought victors in The FIGHT (also known as spiritual warfare). Herein, there will be three primary pillars (Loving UP, Loving IN, and Loving OUT) that will serve as our outline, with four additional components supporting the core. In total, there are (7) traits that encompass and exemplify God's faith FAMILY.

Christianity's 7 FAMILY Traits

1. **Loving UP:** A miraculous, grace-gifted, biblical love & awe for God
2. **Loving IN:** Koinonia: a supernaturally unified love for God's family
3. **Loving OUT:** Harmonizing the Great Commandments & Commission
4. **Loving ALL:** A foundational heart posture for living Christ-likeness
5. **Serving:** A loving, sacrificial, others-oriented, hands-on humility
6. **Christ-likeness:** The defining ideal for every Christian and every church
7. **Culture:** Normalizing intentional support for all Christ-likeness

Where Love is, God is.

- Henry Drummond

Message

The Church is the Bride of Christ (Revelation 19:7). ***It's time she acted like it!***

The church is not a select circle of the immaculate, but a home where the outcast may come in. It is not a palace with gate attendants and challenging sentinels along the entrance-ways holding off at arm's-length the stranger, but rather a hospital where the broken-hearted may be healed, and where all the weary and troubled may find rest and take counsel together.

- James H. Aughey

You (Millennials) are the generation most afraid of real community because it inevitably limits freedom and choice. Get over your fear.

- Tim Keller

In the New Testament, love is more of a verb than a noun. It has more to do with acting than with feeling. The call to love is not so much a call to a certain state of feeling as it is to a quality of action.

- R. C. Sproul

Love is a gift of God.

Being loved is life's second greatest blessing; loving is the greatest.

- Jack Hyles

Since love grows within you, so beauty grows.

For love is the beauty of the soul.

- Augustine

The church that is not jealously protected by mighty intercession and sacrificial labors will before long become the abode of every evil bird and the hiding place for unsuspected corruption. The creeping wilderness will soon take over that church that trusts in its own strength and forgets to watch and pray.

- A. W. Tozer

BIG IDEA: The FAMILY of God is the miraculously saved, set-apart, and sent-out, loving servants of the living God... the culture-contrasting, supernaturally unified missionaries of the Messiah.

PREVIEW:

1. Love UP
2. Love IN
3. Love OUT

TEXT:

Acts 2:46

*And day by day, attending the temple **together** and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,*

1. LOVE UP

Illustration:

God's merciful love & miraculous grace + our repentance & biblical faith = **UP love!**

In proportion as a church is holy, in that proportion will its testimony for Christ be powerful.

- Charles Spurgeon

Explanation:

Some contemporary churches are billed as "[seeker-friendly](#)" but the Bible says that "no one seeks God." [Psalm 14:2-3](#) pictures God searching in vain for even one heart that seeks Him: "The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one." This passage is quoted in [Romans 3:10-12](#), which says, "As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.'" So, if no one seeks God, who are the "seekers" that some churches strategize to attract? Plus, how are people saved if no one is seeking God?

First, we must understand human nature. Because of Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden ([Genesis 3:11](#)), sin entered the world and became part of human existence. Because Adam is the common ancestor of every human being, we all inherit that [sin nature](#). We are born with a natural desire for rebellion, self-interest, and disobedience. In [Romans 7:18](#), Paul says, "For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." In ourselves, we cannot seek after God, for the simple reason that seeking God is a good and holy thing. Sinful flesh is incapable of good and holy things ([Isaiah 64:6](#)).

Jesus said, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them" ([John 6:44](#)). In other words, the only way we can seek God is if the Holy Spirit has first stirred our hearts with a desire for God. It is God who draws us to Himself. [Ephesians 2:8](#) underscores this truth: "By grace are you saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God." Even the faith to believe for salvation does not originate within our fleshly nature. God enables the fallen human heart to seek Him, when in our own self-centered rebellion we would never do so. Every good thing originates with God ([James 1:17](#)). Faith in God is a good thing, and so it also originates with God.

Even our best efforts fall far short of the righteousness required by God ([Romans 3:23](#)). That's why Scripture says that no one seeks God. We seek fulfillment. We seek pleasure. We seek escape from pain. But the pure motivation of seeking after God for Himself is a gift from God. We are not saved because we had the wisdom and insight to exercise our own faith and trust God. No one wakes up one day and, on his own, decides to seek God. That would be a salvation by our own works, and Scripture is clear we are saved only by the grace and mercy of God ([Titus 3:5](#); [Romans 11:6](#)). We are saved when God touches our hearts and prompts us to use the faith He gives to receive His gift of salvation. Even with the knowledge of God's existence everywhere, people naturally choose to "suppress the truth by their wickedness" ([Romans 1:18-20](#)).

Because no one naturally seeks God, God seeks us. He sought Adam and Eve as they hid in the Garden ([Genesis 3:9](#)), and He has been seeking His lost loved ones ever since. Jesus gave this as His mission statement: "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" ([Luke 19:10](#)).

When God saves us, we are [born again](#). He opens our eyes to the truth; He gives us faith and forgiveness and fellowship with Him. We become new creations in Christ ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). In our newness of life, we are given godly desires ([Psalm 73:25](#)), a cleansed heart ([Hebrews 10:22](#)), and a new mind ([1 Corinthians 2:16](#)). In the power of the Holy Spirit, we begin to truly seek after God.

- GotQuestions.org

Faith makes all things possible... love makes all things easy.
- Dwight L. Moody

Application:

The Kingdom of God is not going to be advanced by our churches becoming filled with men, but by men in our churches becoming filled with God.

- Duncan Campbell

Men are God's method. The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.

- E.M. Bounds

2. LOVE IN

Illustration:

In the same way that a wedding is NOT a marriage and a house is NOT a home, **a religious crowd is NOT The Church**. In each of those examples, **the missing link is love**.

Too many churches are little more than four walls and a roof.

- Billy Sunday

I cannot love you... until I love God as I ought to love Him.

- Jack Hyles

Explanation:

While Christianity is defined by Christ, it is described by His Church. Think about it... what serves as the greatest proof that Jesus rose from the dead... that Christ was raised on the third day and truly conquered the grave. Without question, **the most convincing evidence for the resurrection of Christ is the Body of Christ** (also known as The Church).

Our LORD said it best in Acts 1:8 *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally)."* **The supernaturally loving Church reveals the living Christ!**

John 17:20-23

20“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man.

- Dwight L. Moody

The local church is espoused to Christ, but there is always the danger of that love growing cold. Like Martha, we can be so busy working for Christ that we have no time to love Him. Christ is more concerned about what we do with Him than for Him. Labor is no substitute for love. To the public, the Ephesian church was successful; to Christ, it had fallen.

- Warren Wiersbe

The church does not draw people in; it sends them out.

- Chuck Colson

To understand what it means to BE The Church, nothing compares to the illustrations, explanations, & applications of God’s Word, will, and ways!

Application:

Acts 2:42-27

[42](#)And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43](#)And awe^d came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44](#)And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45](#)And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46](#)And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47](#)praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile.

- Billy Sunday

When there's something in the Bible that churches don't like, they call it 'legalism.'

- Leonard Ravenhill

Every believer is commanded to be plugged in to a local church.

- David Jeremiah

Christianity means a lot more than church membership.

- Billy Sunday

Divisions in the church always breed atheism in the world.

- Thomas Manton

*The church is a hospital for sinners,
and not a museum for saints.*

- Vance Havner

3. LOVE OUT

Illustration:

*The church which is not a missionary church will be
a missing church when Jesus comes.*

- F.B. Meyer

Explanation:

Jesus explained what “Loving OUT” means AND how it validates His message and messengers. In short, the biblical and missional, Scriptural and self-less commitments to Christ’s Great Commandments (Matthew 22:36-40) and Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) are definitively interwoven into the DNA of Christ’s FAMILY. **If you don’t Love OUT, you don’t love Him!**

One need only to read 2 Corinthians 13:5 and its command to test ourselves, along with a regular revisiting of Revelation chapter 2 and 3’s five shocking rebukes to churches that range from drifting away to already dead, to realize how important it is to have a healthy, biblical assessment of oneself and one’s FAMILY.

Case in point, the closing of Christ’s Sermon On The Mount (Matthew 5-7) is perhaps the most startling and stark warning in all the Bible. Why so? Simple. The two accounts referenced (first with professing and expectant “christians,” followed by a man who built his proverbial “spiritual house” on the sand of self-reliance and biblical disobedience) draw into focus the eternal consequences (being cast into hell) that will come to all who have been found guilty of “spiritual identity theft.”

Again, let us hear and heed the LORD Himself:

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19**“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20**teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

To love someone means to see him as God intended him.

- Fyodor Dostoevsky

Application:

1 John 3:18

Let us not love with word and tongue but in action and in truth.

We do not want a church that will move with the world.

We want a church that will move the world.

- G.K. Chesterton

If we have got the true love of God in our hearts, we will show it in our lives. We will not have to go up and down the earth proclaiming it. We will show it in everything we say or do.

- Dwight L. Moody

The Christian that is bound by his own horizon, the church that lives simply for itself, is bound to die a spiritual death and sink into stagnancy and corruption. We never can thank God enough for giving us not only a whole Gospel to believe, but a whole world to give it to.

- A. B. Simpson

*You can always give without loving,
but you can never love without giving.*

- Amy Carmichael

CLOSE:

The chief danger of the Church today is that it is trying to get on the same side as the world, instead of turning the world upside down. Our Master expects us to accomplish results, even if they bring opposition and conflict. Anything is better than compromise, apathy, and paralysis. God, give to us an intense cry for the old-time power of the Gospel and the Holy Ghost!

- A. B. Simpson

*The world does not understand theology or dogma,
but it understands love and sympathy.*

- Dwight L. Moody

Love is not only something you feel, it is something you do.

- David Wilkerson

For What?

*Love is the doorway through which the human soul
passes from selfishness to service.*

- Jack Hyles

*Jesus is the Head of the church.
He expects His body to cooperate.*

- Jack Wellman

*The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of
those who are not its members.*

- William Temple

So What?

*What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It
has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see
misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and
sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.*

- Augustine

The chains of love are stronger than the chains of fear.

- William Gurnall

*It is a shame when the church itself is a cemetery, where the
living sleep above the ground, as the dead do beneath.*

- Thomas Fuller

The Church used to be a lifeboat rescuing the perishing. Now she is a cruise ship recruiting the promising.

- Leonard Ravenhill

Now What?

In biblical thinking, genuine love exists only when good works are done in a context where God, rather than the doer, gets the credit.

- Daniel Fuller

The condition of the church may be very accurately gauged by its prayer meetings. So is the prayer meeting a grace-ometer, and from it we may judge of the amount of divine working among a people. If God be near a church, it must pray. And if He be not there, one of the first tokens of His absence will be slothfulness in prayer.

- Charles Spurgeon

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Related SERMONS:

"Blessed To BE Together"

Acts 2:46

July 16, 2017

Sermon Series: Miraculous Metamorphosis