

Evangelism Tip

Love is, by expression, personal. It is the warmth gained from the light of another's actions. It is the smile that is not a word. It is the touch that is not a photo.

Connect Group Notes 14 Feb 2010
Ps Mark Kelsey What's Love Got To Do With It?

In relationships, love is and does ...

1. Love Initiates Rom 5:7-8 (NIV)

** Love moves and acts first: God acted first even when we were at enmity with Him, He sent Jesus

** Initiation is the beginning of love restored

** Story of the Prodigal Son – **Luke 15:17 (NIV)**

After leaving his father's house and squandering his inheritance, he made a move to return to his father's house and because of his initiation, reconciliation could take place and it did.

2. Love Reconciles 2 Cor 5:16-18 (NIV)

God sent Jesus to reconcile the world to Himself. Whilst His death was the sacrifice for sin that was required to enable reconciliation between God and men, in those moments on the Cross other things happened that display and speak of love and reconciliation in action:

** Jesus asked his Father to forgive the soldiers and those that crucified Him

** He spoke with the 2 thieves on either side of Him also being crucified

** He yielded and gave up his Spirit to God and an earthquake shook the place, dead people rose and the curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom

Divine intervention happens when we act to bring reconciliation, we are ministers of reconciliation - peacemakers

3. Love Transforms 2 Cor 3:17-18

** Reconciliation without transformation will cause the problem to return

** People often have to change for reconciliation and healing to take place in relationships

The story of Jacob and Esau is one of struggle, tension, sin, betrayal. But Jacob initiates, he wrestles with God and is transformed. Jacob takes steps to reconcile with his brother Esau and arranges generous gifts for him. Esau sees his brother has changed, receives the gifts and they are reconciled.

Gifts are often a part of reconciliation, they express love and intent and soften the heart of the receiver. God gave his Son to us, Jacob gave great gifts to Esau.

When we live in love and reconciliation with one another, the world will see God.

TALK ABOUT

** Is there an example you could share with the group where someone reached out to you in love toward reconciliation?

** Is there a friend, relative or someone at work you need to be reconciled with?

** Pray for wisdom as to what you can do to reconcile remembering that love initiates, reconciles and transforms

REPORTING <http://myc3church.net/cgi-bin/exform.pl>

Connect Leaders,

You are the best people to identify those people who would benefit from a year at **C3 College**. Please let them know that 2010 is going to be an amazing year, we have planned incredible updated courses with full time and part time options in Leadership and Ministry (Previously SOM), Creative Ministry (Previously SCA) and a new Friday major in Pastoral Care.

Contact Lauren.Taylor@myc3church for more information – or see the training channel on www.myc3church.net web site.

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