

Simplicity of the Simple Life
Love Means Others (Wk 13)

Romans 12:9-10 NKJV

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

The phrase “kindly affectionate” comes from the root of mutual love of parents and children which extends to loving affection, prone to love, loving tenderly. In verse 10 love of the brethren tenderly affectioned one to another.

In the most positive example of a loving family.....extend tender affection to one another.

The phrase “brotherly love” refers to the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren. Being able to cherish one another as family members in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

The phrase in the middle “to one another” means one another, reciprocally, mutually.

Reciprocally is shared, felt, or shown by both sides or mutually corresponding.

Mutually means directed by each toward the other or the others, having the same feelings one for the other, shared in common.

We have been talking about learning to see other people.....to hear other people

Making room in your heart, mind, and life for others/other people.

This is not based on our human perspective of natural connection/acquaintance.

Most of us naturally want to hang out with people like us or people that would kind of fit into our little club of likeness or whatever we determine to be cool.

Yet, this type of uncommon love to those inside the family as well as those outside the family proclaims the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

John 13:34-35 NKJV

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Let's look at human attributes that negatively affect this "kindly affectionate, brotherly love":

- Anger, rage, and malicious behavior
- Being offended and not forgiving
- Anxious thoughts
- Lust, evil desires, and impure thinking
- Slander, gossip, and dirty language
- Sexual immorality
- Lying, deceit, and misrepresentation

Jesus said So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, in turn you should love each other. Your love and unselfish concern for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

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⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

This morning is a real life, practical illustration of how we can impact one another by seeing and hearing the people around us.

(Michael Osgood to stand up front with Tim)

Disclaimer: Michael has agreed to stand beside me this morning in order that his presence will validate the experiences that I will be sharing. This is an absolutely huge step for him and I have no desire to do anything but allow his heart experiences to encourage you to action.

Background: Michael experienced some deep "church hurt" when he was a teenager when his mother passed away. Fast forward to January 2024 when Michael lost the love of his life, his wife Lilly after being together for 40 years. Michael watched MVC online for many months before he could muster the courage to attend a service.

He was blown away that it was ok to serve coffee before and during the service!!!!

His mind was racing and he was petrified that he would not fit in or be accepted.

First impressions: **Welcoming and shaking hands on the concrete pad after you walk up from the parking lot.....**Frank, Bob, Neale, Donald, and others

Coffee table: Michael and Jenny.....Danielle & Missy

"Hello, my name is Todd, great to meet you".....Todd speaks every single Sunday.

"Come sit with us".....Bob Levinson & Cynthia Burke

"Hi Michael, how are you today".....Cindy Napier Tanner

Chili cook off at the Pequignot shop when he was feeling out of place and wondering why he had come because he was really struggling with grief and sadness.....”**How are you, my name is Luke**”, so Michael sat down at the table and began to get to know Luke Henry not knowing that this was Luke’s second or third men’s event to attend. It changed the trajectory of his evening at the shop.

“Michael, come to our house for Christmas as we would love to have you”. Instead of being alone on Christmas day, Michael shared a meal and fellowship with Shawn & Seasons and their other guests.

I am only highlighting a sampling of people and situations to show you the power of people seeing Michael and then being able to listen to him.

One of the most powerful impressions and expression of kindly affectionate love.....when someone says his name.

Comforting, affirming, and overwhelming in the greatest of ways.

All of the names I have mentioned use Michael’s name most of the time as well as so many others of you who greet him by name.

Being a welcoming, friendly, loving church family has been an intentional part of our DNA since 2005 when we were a simple Bible study group meeting in homes and garages.

We must be intentional in 2025 and beyond to continue to learn, grow, and change our perspective to include God and others.

- Love means others.
- Seeing others.
- Acknowledging others.
- Listening to and hearing others.

We must be intentional about consistently making room for others in our lives.

Jesus said So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, in turn you should love each other. Your love and unselfish concern for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

Paul reiterated by telling the Romans, *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;*

We have a very clear directive from our Lord and Savior.

What will we do with His words from His heart for others?