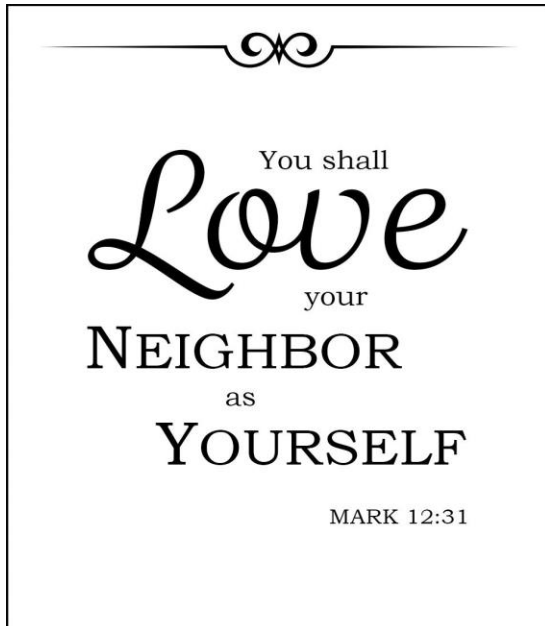


31st Ordinary Sunday



Once mathematics teacher asked the students a question, “if $A=B$ and $B=C$, then $A=C$. can you give a practical example to this?

One boy said, “It is simple Madam”. “I Love you; you love your daughter!”.

Well, I don’t think I need to complete that equation.

If we do not know what is true Love is, then we will have all kinds of problems especially when it comes to relationships. 1Jn 4:16 it says “God is Love and whoever abides in Love abides in God, and God abides in him”. If we do not know what Love really is, then we do not know God, because God is Love. What does the Bible say about Love? What are the types of Love?

There are 4 types of Love. 1. Eros (Romantic or Sexual Love). 2. Storge (Family Love). 3. Philia (friend or brotherly Love). 4. Agape (God’s Love or sacrificial Love).

Romantic relationships can be a deck of cards. They begin with diamonds and hearts and end with clubs and spades. Love at first sight and divorce at first fight.

Ever wondered what makes a relationship meaningful, genuine, lasting forever?

Ever wondered what is true Love?

Love is more than the often used three words, I LOVE YOU!

Love is more than those sentiments and touchy feelings. Love is not a Noun, Love is Verb, it is full of action.

Love is less about romance, more about respect. Because remember, romantic feelings are always in flux, they are today and not tomorrow. Today you are in great mood and you have those romantic feelings. Tomorrow you are not in great mood and you don’t feel those romantic feelings.

Also, the initial charm in any relationship, goes down with time. But respect for each other and respect for other’s individuality doesn’t die down with time. Feelings go down with time, respect doesn’t. It is that Respect and not Romance that becomes the foundation for all of our feelings which can sometimes be like an emotional roller coaster.

Love is less about my rights and more about responsibilities for your welfare, it means striving for physical, emotional, spiritual welfare of the person whom we truly love.

Love is less about knowing the person and more about caring for the person.

Didn't someone say- "I don't care how much you know, until I actually know how much you care". A caring heart walks more than the extra mile to offer service to the beloved. Love is a great blend of caring and daring.

Daring to stand up and accept the person completely regardless of their faults and shortcomings. Daring to practice the virtue of forgiveness and able to let go of the mistakes and the blunders, small and big in that relationship.

Yes, it's like the beautiful, colorful, fragrant rose, those emotional feelings. But it is also like accepting the thorn that come along with rose, those weaknesses, those shortcomings, those faults.

Yes, Love is about complete acceptance, a package deal like a rose, beautiful in its color and fragrance but also coming along with the thorn.

Gal 5:14 "For whole Law is fulfilled in one word: "you shall Love your neighbor as yourself".

Agape Love is not a feeling, it is an act. It is not a noun but a verb, a full of action.

Rom 5:8 'God shows his Love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us'.

Ask this question for yourselves, will you give your Life for someone else whom you do not know? It is a hard question.

That is God's Love, that is God's unconditional Love and that Love God is for me and you.

Many marriages are failed today because there is no Agape Love. Marriage is only relationship that contains all four forms of Love 1. Eros (Romantic or Sexual Love).

2. Storge (Family Love). 3. Philia (friend or brotherly Love).

4. Agape (God's Love or sacrificial Love).

In marriage if you focus on Agape Love, you will be successful in your marriage until you die.

Rom 5:5 "God's Love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us". It reminds that if the vertical beam intersects with the horizontal beam, we have the form of the Cross. May it remind us to Love God with our whole being and to Love our neighbor as ourselves. How can we express our Love of God and in what way? What is our most important thing in Life?

To end this, I would like to share with you as our food for reflection of these words:

"I went to the mountain to seek wisdom, but did not find it".

"I went to the sea to seek Peace, but did not find it".

"I went to the temple to seek God, but did not find Him".

"I went to serve my neighbor, and I found all three".

Amen.