

Swinging For The Fences - In Your Relationships!

1 Peter 3:1-7 & Selected Scriptures

Sermon Series: Home Run Living, Pt. 3

April 26, 2015

Home Run Living Theme Verse:

1 Peter 2:9, *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*

Today’s Passage:

Matthew 22:37, *“Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

John 13:34, *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

Three Takeaways From Those Two Passages:

1. We are all called to love God and love people.
2. We are to love people totally and unconditionally.
3. This is a demonstration that we are true disciples.

Question Of The Day: How Do We Love One Another?

Five Love Languages:

1. WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Proverbs 18:21, *The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Proverbs 12:25, *Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.*

Proverbs 15:4, *The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.*

- A word of affirmation means saying the assumed and unspoken about someone.
- Subcategories of words of affirmation: 1) encouraging words, 2) kind words, 3) humble words and 4) grateful words

2. QUALITY TIME

Hebrews 10:25, *not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing...*

Matthew 4:19, *Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰They immediately left their nets and followed Him.*

- "Love is spelled T-I-M-E."
- Subcategories of quality time: 1) togetherness, 2) quality conversation, and 3) quality activities

3. **GIVING GIFTS**

Mark 14:4, *Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? ⁵It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.*

John 3:16, *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

- Subcategories of gift giving: 1) our perception of gifts and money, 2) the greatest gift can be the gift of oneself, and 3) how to give gifts

4. **ACTS OF SERVICE**

Galatians 5:13, *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.*

John 13:3, *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.*

- An act of service is expressing your love by doing something for someone else. It requires thought, planning, time, effort and humility.

5. **PHYSICAL TOUCH**

Romans 16:16, *Greet one another with a holy kiss.*

(1 Peter 5:14)

Romans 12:10, *Love one another with brotherly affection. (ESV)*

- Subcategories of physical touch: 1) hugging, 2) hand shake, and 3) non-sexual touching

Closing Challenge:

- Use all five different ways to communicate love to people.

- No matter how well you may or may not have communicated love in the past, this is a new day – a new beginning – to begin walking a life of love.
- A free way to determine your love language and that of those around you including your kids: <http://www.5lovelanguages.com>.

Next Steps:

- 1) Get plugged into a Life Group@Church or Life Group@Home.
- 2) Follow our daily reading plan on Twitter or the blog: @JohnMarkCaton or johnmarkcaton.com
- 3) Make a commitment to be in every service and a Life Group for the next two weeks during Home Run Living.