

WEEK 1 - SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

Sermon Title: #RelationshipGoals

Sermon Passages: 1 Corinthians 13; Matthew 5:43-48; Matthew 22:24-40; Genesis 3

Life Group Passage: 1 John 4:7-21

Big Idea: We are broken and we are loved.

Themes:

- God's standard of love is the way that He loves us. We cannot meet this standard.
- All of our relationships, including marriage, are made up of broken people who fall short of God's standard.
- God designed our relationships to be perfect but sin has corrupted them.
- You are unable, but not off the hook. You are unable to love God, others and even your spouse according to how God defines love, but you are not off the hook. You still must exhibit and show the love of God to all. His presence in us makes this possible.

GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Think back over your experience of becoming a Christian. Was there a person whose love was instrumental in that journey / decision? If so, who was it, how did they show love to you, and how did it affect you?
- Our marriages and other significant relationships (parents, siblings, close friends, etc.) struggle to show pure and holy love. Why is this? How have you seen this play out in your own life and relationships?
- Which one of the qualities of love found in 1 Corinthians 13 do you struggle with the most?

MARRIAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"Our marriage is the most powerful example of the gospel we possess."

"The message our marriage preaches either repels or attracts our children."

- How would you describe your parents' marriage? In what ways is your marriage similar? In what ways is your marriage different?
- Share about a time when your love for one another was deeply challenged.
- What has informed your view of love up to this point in your life (your family, friends, Hollywood, the Internet, etc.)? How does that influence the way you interact with your spouse?
- Why is it difficult for you to love your spouse the way Christ loves you?

SINGLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How would you describe your parents' marriage? In what ways do you see those traits manifested in your relationships? (Good or Bad)
- Why is it difficult for you to love others the way Christ loves you?
- How does being aware of our own brokenness enhance our relationships with others?
- How does culture (Hollywood, Internet, TV, etc.) influence your relationship? What are some ways we can keep a biblical foundation in the midst of a secular world?

ACTION ITEM

- Write your spouse or significant person a note thanking them for making a commitment to love you despite your flaws. Integrate into your note specific ways that they love you.