**Love One Another: It’s Not About You**

**(1 Peter 1:22-25; John 13:12-17, 34-35)**

***Pastor Datuk Kee Sue Sing***

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:22-25)

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13: 12-17)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

Introduction

In some form or other, we have encountered things that are just too good to be true. They make us question if it is a scam, if the event was a ploy to make us buy into something, or if it is to get rid of near expiry or even fake items!

It is the same thing for those who are yet to know Christ, from the outside looking into the “church” – do those people think we are fakes?

How would the world know that the church is the real thing – that it is genuine and authentic?

The reality is that the outside world will not know Christ by church doctrine, systems, denominations, commitments, even by the miracles within the church. They will know Christ and the people who follow Him by this distinguishing characteristic:***Love for one another***.

# The Prescription

## Love one another deeply

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. (1 Peter 1:22)



The word ‘deeply’ (Greek “ektenos”) means: “*stretched to the limit*”. It is an athletic term to “*go all out*”.

The translation from the Message Bible reads as such: “… love one another as your lives depended on it.” It illustrates that as sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, we are bound to fail each other because sin is inherently in and around us. Yet we are all called to love one another in a community, as a witness to the world of Him who first loved us.

## A New kind of love

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13: 34-35)

When Jesus gave this command, it was reinforcing a command given in Leviticus 19:18“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but *love your neighbor as yourself*. I am the Lord.”

According to Shabbath 31 in the Babylonian Talmud, a Gentile challenged Rabbi Hillel to explain the Torah to him while he stood on one foot, to which Rabbi Hillel replied him with what is now known as the Golden Rule: “*What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: this is the whole Torah (Law)”*

However, the Golden Rule for Christ-followers is this: “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31) Jesus emphasizes again that love is to be *active*, not passive.

# The Practice

The Big Idea: God commands us to love one another. We can do this in many different ways, through our words, time, gifts, services and touch.

## Word of Affirmation

We use words everyday - to think, speak, hear, read, sing. That is why words are important; the words we use inadvertently shape our lives and the lives of others.

In the morning, look into the mirror, stick out your tongue and ask yourself: what kind of tongue will you have today?

### The conniving tongue

Those who speak with wrong motives, aiming to slander and spread gossip.

A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends. (Proverbs 16:28 NLT)

### The careless tongue

### Those with quick temper and prone to anger.

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

### The controlled tongue

### Those who think before they speak.

### When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. (Proverbs 10:19)

### Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues. (Proverbs 17:28)

### The caring tongue

Those who speak to encourage and build others – the kind God wants us to be as a community of love.
Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. (Proverbs 16:24)
The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life. (Proverbs 10:11)

## :index.jpgQuality Time

Love is spelled *T-I-M-E*. Surprised?

The truth is that when we say we have “*No Time*”, what it really means is that that person or task is “*Not Important*”! We can chase task and opportunities all the time, but the fact is all of us are given only 24 hours a day.

Jesus knew this very well. The man who knew He only had a short time to minister to people always had time for people who needed it. (*The Woman with the Issue of Blood* Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48, *The Little Children and Jesus* Matthew 19:13-14; Luke 18: 15-17)

## Giving of Gifts

“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13)

A gift is something that says, “I was thinking of you.” It is not how valuable the thing is. It is receiving and knowing that we are being taken care of.

God is a gift giver. He gave us the greatest gift of all – His son Jesus Christ.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

## Acts of Service

“Talk is cheap. Show me your action!” Do something that means something for another.
Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

## Physical Touch

Jesus chooses to heal and love by touching. He chose to physically touch the outcasts (the sick, the leper, the blind, the woman) because it was what they needed.

(Read Mark 7:31-37; Matthew 20:29-34; Matthew 8:1-4; Luke 13:10-13; Matthew 8:14-15, Luke 4:40)

In times of crisis, most people don't want your words – but just the indication of care – your presence of being there, and sometimes, a silent hug. That action is appreciated more than all the words you can give.

# In Closing…

To love is a conscious choice. As a community of love, our challenge it to make love something that we choose to, decide to and make it happen daily.

Sermon summary contributed by Adeliyn.

Prayer points contributed by Loong.



Special announcement

A Volunteer Preview Session will be held on Sunday (6th August) from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Hall 4 for potential volunteers to understand the heart of serving and explore the opportunities to serve. Visit [dumc.my/serve](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CPru%5CDownloads%5Cdumc.my%5Cserve) to find out more.



**SERMON: 5 Love Languages**

**Pray**

* As Christians, we will understand that love is of God and it is only natural for us to love.
* We will learn to love one another sincerely and deeply.
* Instead of paying lip service, we will love one another through words, time, gifts, service and touch.
* We will learn to tame our tongue and use it caringly.
* We will make time and spend time with our loved ones, especially our God.

***Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)***

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: Be a Volunteer**

*A Volunteer Preview Session will be held on 06/08/2017 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Hall 4 for potential volunteers to understand the DNA of DUMC, the heart of serving and to explore the opportunities to serve.*

**Pray:**

* Many will turn up to seek opportunities to love God and serve people.
* Those in attendance will understand clearly the vision and mission of DUMC.
* They will find a suitable ministry to serve where their gifts can be put to good use for the Kingdom of God.
* Volunteers will have strength and perseverance to serve, bringing glory to God and brining people closer to God.

***Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)***

 **MALAYSIA MY NATION: Moving Forward**

**Pray:**

* Malaysian leaders and citizens will focus on the more important issues of the day, like education, economy, innovations instead of racial and religious rhetoric.
* Groups with ulterior motives will be ignored.
* The next election will be conducted in a transparent and fair manner so the next government will be elected fairly in a true democratic manner.
* The government will be committed to eradicate corruption, bureaucracy, mediocrity, and other forms of malaise.
* The government will prioritize important issues like human rights, fair distribution of resources, good governance and other things.

***Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand. (Proverbs 19:21)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: Martial Law Extended in Philippines**

***The Congress (245/294) and the Senate (16/24) extended Martial Law for 5 more months until the end of the year in Mindanao to combat a rebellion inspired by Islamic State.***

**Pray:**

* The unrest in Marawi that resulted in hundreds of casualties, injuries and missing will be stopped very soon.
* There will be no more casualties and loss of properties.
* Peace and order will be restored and rebuilding process can begin.
* The martial law will be lifted once it is no longer needed so the local residents can once again life in freedom under the normal rule of law.
* The martial law will not be abused.

***For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. (Romans 13:4)***