

Sermon Note Taking Page

Love and Its Expectations: Startled with the truth of the Gospel!

Researched and Presented by Dr. John D. Abbott, Jr. (October 9, 2011)

Center United Methodist Church

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5:39-48 (NIV)

³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor[†] and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in

heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Four Greek words for “Love”

1. Family love: describes the love a parent for a child and a child for a parent. (storge)
2. The love of a man for a woman: includes passion, sex and that terrible longing. (eros)
3. Dearest & closest friends: This is the warmest and best Greek word for love. It describes a persons closest, nearest and truest friends. (philia)
4. Unconquerable benevolence, invincible goodwill. If we regard a person with this love, it means that no matter what that person does to us, no matter how he treats us, no matter if he insults us or injures us or grieves us, we will never allow any bitterness against him to invade our hearts. (agape)

We can only have this kind of love when Jesus enables us to conquer our natural tendency to anger and to bitterness, and to achieve this invincible goodwill to all men.

This kind of love is not a feeling of the heart it is something that we must, with the help of the Holy Spirit, will into being.

It is quite obvious that the last thing this kind of love, Christian love, means is that we allow people to do absolutely as they like, and that we make no effort at correcting their course. It often means that some form of punishment is required. However our punishment cannot be

done to satisfy our desire for revenge, but to make the person a better person.

1. Jesus laid this love down as a basis for personal relationships.
2. This commandment is possible only for a Christian.
3. This commandment requires that we pray for them.
4. We cannot go on hating another person in the presence of God.

Who do you need to love by forgiveness today?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____