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Wednesday, February 21, 2024

WOW – Word on Wednesday

LOVING MORE IN 2024!

1 Corinthians 13 and John 13:1

How Do We Make Love a Dominating Characteristic of our Lives?

I. Make Love a Priority

- a. Loving people is difficult and daunting Psalm 133:1
- b. Jesus made a point of defending certain ones for us.
- c. He says love you God with all your heart, soul, and mind.
- d. Then He says love your neighbor as yourself. Colossians 3:14

II. Don't Underestimate the Importance of Love

- a. Loving attitudes and behavior are to reflect God's love. Ephesians 4:3
- b. Love is both what God is, and what He has done.
- c. Love is a transitive reality – that is, it requires an object.
- d. Jesus gives two commands that are needed to govern our lives: 1 Corinthians 13:13
love of God and love of neighbor.

III. Demonstrate the Virtue of Love

- a. When we demonstrate Christian love, it distinguishes us from the rest of the world. 1 John 4:19
- b. Notice what Jesus didn't say: "If you promote my agenda, wear Christian clothes, or a WWJD bracelet, or have a fish decal on your car! But rather, if you love one another!"
- c. A watching world will not be persuaded about our values until our love becomes incarnated.
- d. God's plan was to develop a people that reflected His character. And what is His character? LOVE! Jeremiah 31:3
- e. We are God's advertisement to a watching society. Deuteronomy 7:9
- f. Christian love will always be the best apologetic the Church has.

IV. Embody the Nature of Love

- a. Love values the other person. Let's not get confused about Christian love with its modern counterfeits: lust, sentimentality, and gratification. 1 John 4:8
- b. Love acts on the behalf of others.
- c. Love is vulnerable to the other.
 - 1. Love opens up its life to another person.
 - 2. It breaks down barriers and exposes the heart.
 - 3. Love entails a cost; it goes out on a limb.