



Sermon Notes

The Power of Love
Twila Senter
August 22, 2021

Ephesians 5:1-2 NIV

1Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Christ did not offer himself as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God just so our sins could be forgiven, but so that we can live a godly life and participate in his divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:3-4 NIV

3His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Timothy 1:9 NIV

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

The only way we can be holy is to participate in his divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

God's provision includes:

1. His divine power
2. Our knowledge of Him
3. His calling us to himself
4. His very great and precious promises

Romans 1:16 NIV

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

We know from scripture that the gospel is a demonstration of God's love:

Romans 5:8 NIV: *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*



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Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:17-21 NIV

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Romans 5:5 NIV

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Ephesians 3:17-19 NIV

17 ... And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Luke 7:41-48 NIV

41"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. 44Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." 48Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."



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Ephesians 5:31-32 NIV

31"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

1 Corinthians 6:17 NIV *But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.*

"Because God loves us and created us to love Him before anyone or anything else, He becomes jealous when that relationship is threatened. When we turn from Him to follow other gods or idols such as money, pleasure, or fame, He is provoked with legitimate jealousy. Whenever we give time, energy, or resources rightfully belonging to Him to a person, project, or activity, He is violated. The level of His violation is caused by the level of love He has for us. God passionately loves us and fights to protect the integrity of our relationship with Him. (Jimmy Evans, Four Laws of Love - pg. 5)

1 John 2:15-17 NIV

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

James 4:4-5 NIV

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

"The idea is that God loves men with such a passion that he cannot bear any other love within the hearts of men." (Barclay - Quoted in Enduring Word Commentary on James 4:4-5)

Hebrews 2:1-4 NIV

1 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. 4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.



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2 Peter 1:5-8 NIV

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 9 gives us a warning:

2 Peter 1:9 NIV But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

