

Unstoppable Force

(The Church)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, March 2/3 2019 Ray Davis

“Love Like Family” 1Timothy 5:1-25

“We live in a time when people go to a building on Sunday mornings, attend an hour-long service, and call themselves members of the Church. But have you ever read the New Testament? Do you find anyone who “went” to church? The fact that we have reduced the sacred mystery of church to a one-hour service we attend is staggering. Something that God has designed to function as a family has been reduced to an optional weekly meeting.” – Francis Chan (Letters to the Church)

I. Love Like Family vv1-2 (John 13:34-35)

- A. How will people know that we are His disciples? If you have love for one another!
- B. How are we to love each other? Just as Christ has loved us!
- C. Two barriers to this kind of love: Anonymity (I don’t want anyone to know my problems) and Individuality (I can deal with my problems on my own).

II. Care for Those Who Have No Family vv3-16 (Ps27:10)

- A. Honor destitute widows through support v3
Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God shows special care for widows through His people Israel (Ex22:22; Isa1:16-17), through His Son (Mark 12:38-40; Luke 7:11-17), and now through His church (James 1:27).
- B. Qualifications:
 - ✓ They must be without relatives. v4
 - ✓ They must be dependent upon God and devoted to prayer. vv5-8
 - ✓ Older widows should serve, and younger widows marry. vv9-16

III. Care for Your Leaders vv17-25 (Eph4:11-12)

- A. Honor Faithful Leaders with Generous Provision vv17-18 (Heb13:17)

B. Conditions:

- ✓ Protect leaders from unfounded accusations. v19
- ✓ Rebuke unrepentant leaders in the presence of all. vv20-21
- ✓ Appoint leaders with great care. vv22-26 (1Tim 3; Titus 1; 1Pet 5)

1 John 4:7-12 ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Growing Notes

- 1) Read the quote from Francis Chan in the intro of this sermon. What are thoughts and feelings? What are we missing out on in church family life when we let the values of our culture of anonymity and individuality take precedence in our lives?
- 2) How are we to love like a family (1Tim5:1-2)? How will people know that we are Christ’s disciples (John 13:3-35)? How are we to love one another? Why do you think churches with people supposedly filled with God’s spirit and able to speak with the Creator of the Universe, would need gimmicks to reach unchurched people?
- 3) Why should the church care for those who don’t have a family (vv3-16; Ps27:10)? What does it mean to honor destitute widows through support (v3)? What are the qualifiers for helping widows (vv4-16)? What are the differences between 1st century and 21st century widows? How do widows represent anyone who is destitute, marginalized, outcast, or an underdog?
- 4) Why is it important to care for your leaders (vv17-25)? Why do we often wrongly think of church leaders (especially those who are paid) as people who coddle us rather than equip us (Eph4:11-12)? What are the conditions for caring for leaders (vv19-22)? Read 1 John 4:7-12 and pray that db would be a church that loves like family, cares for those without family and cares for our leaders.