

The First and Final Word

Pastor Toby • Week 6 • 4/10/2022

Cross of Love

Matthew 26:52-54

Introduction: Humanity has long wondered...is there a God?
And if there is, how does He feel about us?

So, Are We Loved? YES!

- ❑ Jesus _____ to die for you and me.
(Mark 8:31-33; John 10:11, 17-18; Matthew 26:52-54)
- ❑ Jesus's choice was _____ by love.
(John 14:30-31, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 5:2, 25)
- ❑ Jesus's death brought us great _____.
(1 John 4:10, Revelation 1:5, 1 John 3:16, Romans 8:35-38)
 - God's demands have been _____.
 - We have been set free from _____.
 - We now know what _____ love is.
 - God will **never** _____.

How Will We Respond? (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

- ❑ Will you let the "old you" _____ with Jesus?
- ❑ Will you rise to live life on Jesus's _____?

Icebreakers:

1. What is your favorite "beginning of Spring" activity to celebrate the fact that the weather is warmer and winter is over?
2. Which season of the year is your favorite season and why?

Sermon Summary: The cross where Jesus died is the ultimate proof we really **are** loved by God. Jesus's decision to die for us, motivated by love, convinces us of that truth, as do the many benefits we can enjoy because He did. All that is left is to respond to this "cross of love."

Discussion Questions:

1. What reasons could be given for believing that God actually DOESN'T love humanity? How would you, as a Christian, answer such reasons?

Read John 10:7-18.

2. How does Jesus describe himself in this paragraph and what do those descriptions tell us about how he feels about humanity?

Read Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 5:2, and 5:25.

3. What seems to be the relationship between "loving" and "giving," according to Paul?
4. Which of the 4 "benefits" of Jesus's death (listed in the notes above) means the most to you personally? Give reasons for your answer.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and Galatians 2:20.

5. What does it look like to "live life for yourself"? Is it obviously "evil"?
6. What does it look like to "live for Him who for their sake died and was raised"? Does it mean that all of our activities need to be "church-related" or "religious" in nature?