

May 14, 2023

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Let Us Truly Love One Another"

—The Commandments—

Text: 2 John 1:4~6

1:4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.

1:5 And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.

1:6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

Introduction

Good morning, everyone.

Last time we listened to the voice of the Lord through the message entitled, **I Truly Love You**. We heard that it is important to walk in the love of Christ. It means to walk in the truth.

We also studied that our relationship with our brothers and sisters is to live in **truth and love** with one another. Our relationship with the living God is the most important thing. If that vertical axis with God becomes firm, the horizontal axis between saints will also become to grow the relationship in **truth and love**.

Devotions, which are daily fellowships with the Lord, are essential. We also studied the importance of walking in God's love (agape) in order to live a blessed life.

So far, this was what we were taught by the Lord last time. I would like to continue the message with the title of **Let Us Truly Love One Another**.

Let us study the following two points today.

Main Points

1. We Should Love One Another

2 John 1:5 And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.

I went on a mission trip to New Zealand some time ago. My friend took me to the beach at night. It was pitch black. I couldn't see anything. He spread a sheet on the beach, and we laid on it and looked up at the sky. There was an amazing panorama of stars in the sky. There were countless stars, and they were beautiful and shining. Some of them were weakly shining. When I connected the stars with each other, I could see the shapes of animals and people. It was a beautiful night sky.

My friend used to be a science teacher, so he was rich in knowledge of celestial bodies. As I listened to his explanation about the stars, I was overwhelmed by the grandeur of the heavens.

My friends, the grandeur of the heavens shines only when there are stars. In the same way, there are flowers on the earth, so that the earth can be beautifully decorated. And we are healed by the flowers. God places flowers on the earth to soothe and heal our hearts.

In the same way, it is only when there is love that people can have a good relationship with one another and their social lives can be conducted in a healthy manner. The marital relationship between husband and wife, parent-child relationships, relationships between people, between peoples and nations and international relations are all the same.

Love for one another should be considered important and respected above anything else. God's commandments to mankind are also condensed in one solemn word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

Therefore, 1 Corinthians 13 that is called the chapter of love, records as below,
1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1:2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

However, our love is changing.

Pensée, written by a French genius scholar, records as below,

“He no longer loves the woman he loved ten years ago. It is natural because she is not the same, and neither is he. He was young, and she was young. Now she is a different person. If she had been as she was, he might still have loved her.”

Pensée records that man is such a being. But the love that the Bible teaches is not that kind of changeable love. No, it is not. It is the love that never changes.

Then, what kind of love does the Bible teach through John?

2. The Love that the Bible Teaches

Love in the Bible is the love that Jesus Christ shows. It is love that is beyond human knowledge. It is the love that forgives and gives to the very end.

A friend of mine said that there are two kinds of love.

1) Two kinds of love

① The conditional (because) love (Love without Christ)

He loves her because she is beautiful. He loves her because she is kind. He loves her because she is attractive. He loves her because she has good qualities. He loves her because she is kind, etc. It is, so to speak, the conditional (because) love.

② Yet I love (Love in Christ)

God's love is the one that accepts and is given to other people unconditionally. He is a dirty fellow. Yet I love him. He has nothing good about him. Yet I love him.

➔ This **yet I love** is the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus did not claim His own privilege. He put Himself in the other person's place. On top of that, He gave everything to the other with the love of the cross. They did not deserve to be loved at all, **yet** He loved them.

Christians (the saints) are people who live in this, **yet I love**.

2) Living in Christ's love

2 John 1:6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

I have heard the following story.

Young people were gathering for a discussion. The topic was **marriage**. Their conclusion about the marriage was that no matter how much they love each other and get married, their love will not last long if they do not have any economic strength to support them.

Then, one of them said, "Love is not like that. If love depends on economic power, it is not real one. True love should disregard everything." However, the other young men said, "You are too naive. That's idealism." and laughed at him.

Ironically, he, who was of idealism, was the first one to get married. He was a class 1 handicapped person, who was unable to walk, to play sports, to exercise, or to work at all.

That young man was Rev. Kazutoshi Mitsuhashi, who is one of pastors I respect. Pastor Mitsuhashi married Yukiko who was 19 years old and was a student at a nursing school. She was strongly opposed by her parents and siblings. Although her parents disowned her, Yukiko stopped going the nursing school and married Pastor Mitsuhashi. Due to pediatric paralysis, he had lost the freedom of his hands and feet. He also had no economic means to make a living.



Mrs. Yukiko, who married such a man, had to live with him on her back for the rest of her life. Please imagine how her parents felt about it. What parent would not be concerned about the marriage life of their own daughter?

Why did Mrs. Sachiko get marry Pastor Mitsuhashi? It was because the following words from the Bible came to move her heart.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

For Mrs. Yukiko, greater love to lay down means not to assert her own convenience or plans, but about accepting others and working for their benefit. It is impossible to accept others if they are insisting on themselves.

Pastor Kazutoshi Mitsunashi was carried by his wife on her back wherever he went. He founded the largest church in Sapporo and was honored as an honorary citizen by the mayor of Sapporo. The writer, Ms. Ayako Miura also called Mr. and Mrs. Mitsunashi **my most respected couple**.

When I was in Germany, we invited Mr. and Mrs. Mitsunashi to Germany. I served with them as an interpreter. We served at a certain church where there were many Russian-German people, who had returned from Russia.

A woman who had just returned from Siberia said, "I don't need a sermon." She said that when she saw Pastor's wife carried her husband on her back, she saw true love there. The couple believed that love transcends everything. They did a wonderful work before God as an example of the couple of love.

The act of love is born when we acknowledge and accept other people and give them ourselves. On the other hand, how about our society? Don't we assert too much about our own rights?

Matthew 22:37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

22: 38 This is the great and first commandment.

22:39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

22: 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

God so loved the world that He gave His Son, that no one should perish. The true Christian is the one who walks with the will of God clearly in his heart.

1:6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

We should walk in God's love by following His commandments. This is love and we are the witnesses of love.

Conclusion

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—The Commandments—

God spoke to us this morning. He taught us the life in His love that is the way by following His commandments.

Then, how can we walk by loving one another?

- ➔ We should be quiet before God.
- ➔ We should set aside time and place for becoming quiet before God.
- ➔ We should listen to God's word and follow it.

1:6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

* God bless you!