



SOUTHBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Human Reduction
Sunday, September 2, 2007
Pastor Chris Owen

I John 4:16-18 (NIV)

16And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. 18There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment.

***Love casts out fear**

-We want to be loved for the _____ that make us lovable.

-God loves us in spite of the _____ that make us unlovable.

I John 4:19-21

19We love because he first loved us. 20If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

***Love breaks down barriers**

-It's easier to build a _____ than to build a _____.

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:35-39

35One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38This is the first and greatest commandment. 39And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

-Jesus emphasized the _____ between our love for God and the equal _____ of our love for others.

Personal Question: What kind of message do I send to those who don't know God?

I John 3:16-20

16This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

***Love moves us to action**

-It's _____ to live in God's love and be _____ to the needs of people around us.

-How we treat the _____ is a reflection of how we feel about the _____.

At the heart of humanity is the image of God.

Discussion Stimulation

- What experiences have affected my willingness to love?
- Do I pursue relationships with people who are different than me?
- What activities am I involved in that reflect God's love in me?