

## 09 – Love One Another

For the past few sessions, we have been looking at the themes of the Lord's prayer. Did you notice the one word that is repeated in the Lord's prayer – it is the word 'our'. The word 'our' in the Lord's prayer shifts our focus from ourselves to the people around us. This prayer is not just a prayer for ourselves but a prayer for our brother's and sister's in Christ and for the people we work with. When we pray for others, God fills our hearts with love for the people we are praying for.

What is in your heart that will spill out when somebody bumps you? Is it love or is it the irritations of life?

Today you have the opportunity to give life to the people you work with and the customers you serve! How? Through God's love pulsing through your hearts and hands into the lives of those around you. Just like you they are fearfully and wonderfully made; and all the days ordained for them were written in God's book before one of them came to be (Jer 29:11). God has brought you into their life at this moment so that they can experience his love through you.

The love pulsing through your hearts and hands brings life to those who are struggling with feelings of worthlessness, self-doubt, inadequacies, or feeling like they have to try harder. This love pulsing through your hearts and hands gives birth to hope; gives birth to new possibilities; gives birth to joy; gives birth to freedom; gives birth to forgiveness!

Your love is an expression of your confidence in God's great and precious promises. Your love is a demonstration of your trust that God's will is being accomplished. Your love overflows from all that God has provided for you.

All things begin in love, flow from love, are perfected through love and return to love. All God's activities are loving activities. When God creates – God creates in love; when God rules – God rules in love; when God judges – God judges in love; when God forgives – God forgives in love; when God speaks – God speaks in love.

Loving others is not something that can be added to your 'to do list' or your 'bucket list'. You can't self-generate love. Love is not a self-potential that you can somehow learn to tap. Love comes to you as an unsolicited and undeserved gift of life from your Father above. This gift of love overflows out of you into the lives of others.

You can love because God has forgiven you and wiped the slate clean of all your sins. You can love because God has freed you from the burdens of hate, jealousy and unforgiveness that you have carried towards others. God has empowered you to demonstrate his love by forgiving people even as he has forgiven you. You can love because God is keeping you from temptation.

Love is an overflow of the transforming power of God at work in your life. Your love for others comes as a result of your intimate relationship with the God who is love who has revealed himself to you and called you by name.

When you in quiet trust and obedience, stand confidently and willingly in his presence, God fills your cup with love until it overflows. When your cup is overflowing with God's love and somebody bumps into you, God's love will spill over into their life.

The fruit of love that you freely share with those around you blossoms and grows in the time you have spent abiding in God's presence.

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When you are abiding in God's presence and you do our work – you work with God's love; when you are abiding in God's presence and you serve others – you serve with God's love; when you are abiding in God's presence and you spend time with others – you love with God's love.

*Here is God's invitation for you today ...*

*Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit because apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:4-5)*

Today, as you accept God's invitation to abide in Christ, I invite you to think of a friend or a co-worker and pray that that would grasp the length and breadth and height and depth of the love of God their Father. Pray that they would learn to trust that God's Kingdom is coming and God's will is being accomplished. Pray that they would be wise stewards of God's blessings in their life. Pray that they would know the joy of forgiveness and have the strength to forgive others. Pray that God would keep them from temptation.