



“Triumphant In Christ, Victorious In Life”

Sermon Series: “Love – Leadership – Life”

Sermon: “**LOVE In The Midst Of Tension**” – 3/11/2018

Philippians 1:9 (NKJV) – “*And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment”*

- **AMPLIFIED** - “*And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight [that your love may display itself in greater depth of acquaintance and more comprehensive discernment]”*
- **LOVE IS THE ESSENTIAL _____ OF A FOLLOWER OF JESUS.** A mature follower and a mature leader will develop in the characteristics of 1 Corinthians 13 as we’ve read in previous weeks.
- Today, I suggest to you, that as we grow in our _____ WALK and **FORGIVENESS** WALK and LIFESTYLE, we will that we’re also developing a LOVE that’s full of both judgement and full of mercy.

IDENTIFYING TENSION

- Friends, _____ is a part of life and a part of leadership.
- **Webster defines TENSION as:** *inner striving, unrest, or imbalance often with physiological indication of emotion. A state of latent hostility or opposition between individuals or groups. The act or action of stretching or the condition or degree of being stretched to stiffness: Stress.*
- Let’s briefly examine three common points that everyone confronts:
 - (1) _____ TENSION
 - (2) TENSION FROM _____
 - (3) _____ TENSION
- **Relational tension.** No one *lives, loves or leads* without interacting with other people, which includes interacting with other leaders. _____ with others, including with other leaders, happen.
- **Tension from Turmoil.** Friends, Jesus acknowledged that there would be tension in our lives. That’s why He told us in **Matthew 6:34 (NLT)** – “*So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.*” In other words, “*Don’t borrow problems from tomorrow.*” Jesus knew we would face problems every day. He knew we would have to live with _____. **Read Ephesians 6:10 – 12**
- **Personal Tension.** In addition to tension from turmoil and relationships, each of us has our own issues.
 - We all have things that we’re dealing with, issues that trouble us or cause us to feel that we’re not at our best. Typically, in our own lives, these personal tensions will ebb and flow, reaching a peak and then leveling off.
 - At times, we’ll experience multiple tensions that form what seems like a “perfect storm.” Despite these personal difficulties, we must continue _____, continue _____ and continue _____.
- **Exodus 2:11 – 12 (NLT); Exodus 4:2 – 4 (NLT)**
- Moses had 5 questions. Questions are the beginning of _____. Then God stopped his questions. And He asked Moses questions.
- Moses Staff (Rod) represented three key things that we should give to God:
 - (1) His _____. I’m a shepherd (*Who you are*).
 - (2) His _____. This is how I make my living. (*What you have*).
 - (3) His _____. This is how I manage my flocks. (*What you do*).
 - **IF WE DON’T GIVE OUR IDENTITY TO GOD, OUR INCOME TO GOD AND OUR INFLUENCE TO GOD THE DEVIL WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!**

- We should give these big three things in our lives to God in order for us to effectively be equipped and enabling to handle the _____ in our *living, loving* and *leadership* scenarios.

BALANCING MERCY AND JUSTICE

- Working through the tension of balancing love with judgment presented in **Philippians 1:9** raises a number of questions.
- How can we walk in love while executing judgment? How can we be both merciful and just? How can we be non-negotiable in the truth and yet be tolerant in love?
- I suggest to you, that Paul, by the Holy Spirit, is saying here that our _____ must be combined with _____, which sounds like mixing oil and water.
- **James 2:13** tells us... *“**13** For **judgment** is without **mercy** to the one who has shown no **mercy**. **Mercy** triumphs over **judgment**.”*
- **Hosea 12:6** says, *“So you, by the help of your God, return; Observe **mercy** and **justice**. And wait on your God continually.”*
- *Loving, Living and Leadership* means that we must constantly deal with _____. We don't get to choose one side or the others. Justice and mercy are the ultimate odd couple. Yet when balanced properly, they perfectly complement one another.

GUIDELINES AND EXAMPLES FOR STRIKING A BALANCE

- **Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage: Read 1 Corinthians 7:1 – 20**
- **Dealing with Difficult Children (Christian Parenting):** First of all parents, we must take great energy and effort to ensure that our children are inwardly healthy.
- **Components of Inward Health:** If you or your children are unhealthy inwardly in your spirit, emotions, attitude and mindset, then you or they easily _____, and you and they have a hard time _____, and you or they quickly **HATE** and **HARM** others.
 - (1) A sense of _____. (If this is missing, we feel *inferior*).
 - (2) A sense of _____. (If this is missing, we feel *insecure*).
 - (3) A sense of _____. (If this is missing, we feel *inadequate*).
 - (4) A sense of _____. (If this is missing, we feel *insignificant*).
- **Proverbs 22:6** – *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*
 - **Proverbs 22:15** - *“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”*
- **Five Options When Faced with Conflict:**
 - #1 – I'll get _____! (retaliation)- Discipline, Correct, Train – DON'T PUNISH!
 - #2 – I'll get _____! (escape and avoidance) – CHASTEN BECAUSE YOU LOVE!
 - #3 – I'll give _____! (surrender) – Be longsuffering; LOVE is patient and kind!
 - #4 – I'll go _____! (compromise) – Stay strong and stable during the emotional clash!
 - #5 – I'll _____ with it! (address the issue)

NOTES:
