

Core Value #4
"Loving Community"
Selected Scriptures
October 3, 2010

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16 (NKJV)

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.' John 13:34-35 (NKJV)

A LOVING CHURCH IS FULL OF PEOPLE WHO . . .

1. REFUSE THE WORLD'S PERCEPTION OF REAL LOVE.

❖ It's about getting. **WRONG!**

❖ It's optional. **WRONG!**

❖ It's uncontrollable. **WRONG!**

❖ It's emotional. **WRONG!**

"Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions." 1 John 3:18

2. UNDERSTAND OUR PRIORITY OF REAL LOVE.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NKJV)

❖ **If I don't live a life of love . . .**

➤ **Nothing I say will matter.**

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal." 1 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV)

➤ **Nothing I know will matter.**

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:2a (NKJV)

➤ **Nothing I believe will matter.**

". . . and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:2b

". . . faith working through love." Galatians 5:6b (NKJV)

➤ **Nothing I give will matter.**

"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:3 (NKJV)

3. HAVE EXPERIENCED GOD'S POWER OF REAL LOVE.

'Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.' 1 John 4:7-11 (NLT)

❖ **Every person you encounter is either a . . .**

✓ **Victim to exploit.**

✓ **Problem to avoid.**

✓ **Person to be loved.**