



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC This is Love

SPEAKER SP Chua Seng Lee

THEME Building the Right Culture

DATE 2 & 3 Nov 2024

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The theme for BBTC's 38th anniversary message is 'This is Love'. SP shared that this year's theme was chosen because he believes God wants BBTC to exhibit the trait of love that is real and tangible. John 13:34-35 highlights the essential nature of Christian love, its significance in our relationships with one another and as a testimony to the world. In this sermon, SP unpacked for us 3 things on love: (1) The Statute of Love, (2) The Standard of Love and (3) The Significance of Love.

This is Love

(1) The Statute of Love

We are commanded by God to love one another (John 13:34, Romans 13:8). Our love for God must be expressed in our obedience to His Word (John 14:15a). God wants us to love one another with the agape love (1 Corinthians 13:4-8), which is selfless, unconditional and sacrificial. This does not equate being permissive - turning a blind eye to wrongdoings, indulgent - giving in to wants, nor transactional - loving on condition. Agape love seeks to benefit others and desires the best for them, which includes withholding things that might not be good for them. An example of agape love is giving someone your time, support and encouragement when you know they need it the most.

Apart from giving love, we should also allow other people the opportunity to love us by receiving and accepting their help when we need it - this is also an expression of love.

(2) The Standard of Love

The commandment to love one another was already given in the old commandment (Leviticus 19:18). The new commandment (John 13:34) that Jesus gave is to love one another in the way that He loves us - to the extent of dying on the cross for us. God first loves us by sending His son to atone for our sins (1 John 4:10) so that we can find the strength to love one another as we receive His love.

We can express our love for people in the way that Jesus loves us by praying for them, sharing the gospel with them and pointing them to Jesus so that they can also experience this love.

(3) The Significance of Love

The word of God tells us the world will know that we are disciples of Christ through this agape love (John 13:35). When we love one another, the people around us will feel the impact as they experience it and recognize God through this love.

CONCLUSION

Jesus calls us to love one another not by our own human definition and effort but by the way He loves us and through us. It is about learning to lean on to Jesus to receive more of His love so that we can love one another in the way the Lord wants us to love.

As we celebrate God's faithfulness to BBTC for 38 years and as an extension to last year's anniversary theme 'My Home Church', let us build a home church where love is authentic and present - because God is Love. That is the heartbeat of God and also the heartbeat for BBTC.

QUESTIONS

1. Agape love is the highest form of love embodying selfless, sacrificial and unconditional love for others. Can you recall a moment in your life when you were shown love that seemed selfless or unconditional? How did experiencing such love changed your perspective or actions?

2. Jesus commands us to love one another (John 13:34). How does this commandment affect the way we serve others both inside and outside the church? What might the church look like if every member abides by this commandment?

3. What can we do to show love to those who feel overlooked and marginalized in our community? Is there someone or a people group that God is drawing your attention to?