

Week of June 11, 2017

This Week's Focus: In the gospel, God's love flows to us and through us by the supernatural empowering work of the Holy Spirit.

This Week's Text: Galatians 5:14-25; Matthew 22:34-40; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

"There's a major difference between a morally restrained heart dependent on the law and a supernaturally renewed heart resting in the gospel." **Pastor Lou**

"The Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me." **Tim Keller**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What is Paul's purpose for writing his letter to the Galatians? (Galatians 1:6-7) Who were the Judaizers, and what false gospel/teaching were they spreading?
- How are we justified (declared righteous) by a holy God? (Galatians 2:16) Discuss the following truth: our obedience to Jesus' commands is not a means of our justification, but the supernatural response to having been justified.
- In Galatians 5 and 1 Corinthians 13, Paul intentionally uses the Greek word "agape" for love, which refers to an unconditional, selfless, sacrificial love. What does this teach us about God's love for us? (Romans 5:8) Is "agape" the default love of the human heart? Why do we all share the need to be unconditionally loved? How does the gospel fulfill our deepest need to be loved?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. Discuss the multifaceted aspects of love in this passage. Who empowers us with supernatural love for God and others?
- Who are we called to love? How does the gospel help us respond when we fail to love God and our neighbor?
- What are some barriers in your life that keep you from showing love? Discuss how we can grow in love for God and our neighbor through the following three activities:
 - Reading God's Word
 - Prayer
 - Community