

25 Year Celebration I want to Spend a little time on The journey of His place the last 25 years...like a movie each scene is never a stand alone but built upon the last scene all leading too what will happen in the last scene ...and that is still a future mystery to us..but not God

but we can look back and see the hand of God which started on the corner of Glencoe and Silver in a town called Huntington Beach... however the hand of God on this church started with the heart of God ...for people who were in bondage....like myself...and when I got saved my hardened heart beagn growing soft...and I was given a taste of the heart of God for others in all kinds of bondage to the enemy of our souls...

There is a saying: if you have the burden you have the job....God had a burden for the world...all the people. he loved them and did not want them to perish

NLT JN 3: 16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

- **So Jesus came to find us...**

LK 19: 10 ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

- **and when found brought into the family of God...to be about the business of God!!**

Matt 28:18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- **Its' impossible to be a disciple or student of Someone and not end up like that person.**

Jesus said: *NLT Luke 6:40* *Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.*

- **That's the whole point of being a disciple of Jesus, we imitate Him, carry on his ministry and become like him in the process**

**This church has joined into the burden and the mission of God...to love the world and to seek out people who are lost...and make disciples...
...this church went on a mission for God which was launched in 2005...it started with a an article I wrote in June of 2005....titled**

Crowned with Love...thoughts on loving people like Jesus did by Pastor Joe Furey ** 052505

Jesus was very concerned with His follower's reputation among the pre-believers. They were to be known in the community and throughout their world for their outrageous, self-sacrificing love toward one another. I often wonder why many professing Christ followers today are not as concerned with keeping this reputation among pre-believers as Jesus apparently is?

JN 13:34 "A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must **love one another**.³⁵ **By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**"

- *Relationship before performance..they loved each other...it was so obvious that outsiders were impressed, curious ..and were attracted to these disciples...*
- *they were to give each other a crown of love...*
- **This is What Jesus did for people is crown them with Love.** He considered people of such incredible value that he would crown them or give to them unconditionally the precious gift of his love and acceptance before they did anything to become acceptable.
- They would experience his care for them by the way he treated them (no matter their moral or ethical condition)... he talked, ate and drank

with “sinners.” Notice, he talked *with* them not only *to* them (Matt 9:10).

MT 9:10 Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹ But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?” *NLT*

- Jesus enjoyed genuine friendship with these religious undesirables to the extent that the religious folk considered him one of *them*... an undesirable (Matt 11:19).

MT 11: 19 The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ But wisdom is shown to be right by its results.”

- **From the perspective of Jesus, not only was this a demonstration of his love, it was an action based on wisdom (an exercise of good judgment, to achieve the desired result of saving people.**
- **A true representation of the kingdom of God, and of much more importance than any other commandment or sacrifice to the Lord.**
- **And Jesus even goes so far as to state the Book of Moses and all the prophets are commentaries on the command to love others**

MT 22: 37 Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’^[e] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[f] ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

- And the Lord felt it more profitable to a man’s soul than all burnt (sin) offerings and other sacrifices, and considered this perception a mark of wisdom, and in alignment with the priorities of the kingdom of God. (Mk 12:32-34)

MK 12:32 The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. ³³ And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding

*and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.”*³⁴ Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

- **And from the perspective of Jesus there is absolutely no commandment that Jesus is aware of more important than loving God and loving your neighbor.**

MK 12:29 Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD.’³⁰ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’³¹ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

- **So, is this the reputation the world holds of the modern day Christ follower? I would say yes and no depending upon the type of neighbor you mean.**

Many Christ followers and the churches they gather in have no problem loving certain types of neighbors...those whose sins are somewhat “sanctioned.” By that, I mean those sins we consider similar to our own. The neighbors with these familiar sins can be loved and accepted and given the grace and time to be gradually (hopefully) overcome.

- The point being that we tend to demonstrate God’s compassionate love toward neighbors who fall short in the sanctioned sin arena’s which happen to align closely with our own personal sin zones. And it is right that these beloved creations of God should receive the crown of love from God’s people who represent Jesus.

But sadly it is often a different story for those with the “unsanctioned sins”... those sins less common to the majority....it is rare indeed for the drug addict, the prostitute, the homosexual, the spiritually curious (i.e.

those not in the family yet) to enter into many church's seeking a place of refuge, love and acceptance. Why? Well our reputation, of course! They know full well that they are not accepted or acceptable in their current condition their sins are not on the sanctioned list...therefore the crown of love is withheld. And This is not an assumption on their part, they have heard it loud and clear through every form of media and most have experienced the rejection personally.

There are no quick and easy answers except oneCrown them with Love... that they may know their incredible value in the eyes of God!

What would a church look like if it were known as a hospital for the sin soaked of every ilk...if the crown of love was placed on the heads of all who entered...where the power of God was displayed through the outrageous, self-sacrificing love of Christ followers.

Where a type of sin is not considered the "deal breaker. Where 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 was lived out...I think that is what a Christ follower is, I think that is the kind of church I would want to participate in.

and lead... **What if we took scripture at face value...that love is the most excellent way...as Paul said... And now I will show you the most excellent way.**

1CO 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

- **If I was an outstanding communicator (vs 1). If I possessed the gift of prophecy, perfect theological understanding, 100% correct doctrine and mountain moving faith (vs 2), abounding in generosity and finally martyred for the faith (vs 3)...I gain nothing.... if it is not preceded by, immersed in and finished with agape love...unconditional love!**

So what is unconditional love? Unconditional love is:

1CO 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

One last thought

1CO 13:8 Love never fails... I love that!

so with that in mind...we embarked with those willing on a journey...to live it out...

- *this is not the easy road... it is the road less traveled...when your heart is to help those whose lives are a Mess...is gets messy...and we embrace messy!*
- *and God has allowed us to plant churches to reach other people who don't look like us but are like us... we have opened two more His Places. and planted a vietnamese church and and Arabic speaking Church*

this is us this is you! This is what we are about...

and God has blessed us with the best people ever ...

end

Tim please add this scripture just in case

Niv 1CO 1:26 ⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our

righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ *Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”*^[d]

Some examples of evangelical church sanctioned sins are:

- Money lovers...workaholics...Those governed by fear...(the opposite of love)...The chronic worriers about tomorrow
- The vain...how we look, what we have, who we know...Hypocrites, the greedy, the gossips, the judgers, those apathetic toward the poor and those in prison, and the racist
- Those that are second, third, fourth time divorced...The porn and lust addicted... The joyless, critical and chronically negative...etc

To be sure all these people are in need of grace, acceptance, forgiveness and love ...and we know their “stuff” is more than surface deep and often quite complex and the just “don’t say no” mentality is of little help.