

God is Love

Layperson

Talk #6

Saturday

Length of Talk: **20 Minutes**

PURPOSE:

The residents have encountered Christ and it is time to introduce them personally to Jesus Christ. God is Love should dispel many of the false notions that may exist in their minds about God. The residents will be introduced to a loving God and that is the focal point of the Christian faith.

OUTLINE:

Scripture Reading: 1 John 4: 7-11 & 16

I. There are many questions that need answering concerning God being a "God of Love."

1. What is my idea of God? Is Christ worth encountering? How can I become acquainted with God?
 - a. A maturing faith using 1 Corinthians 13: 11 & Ephesians 4:13.
 - b. Know Him through prayer, Bible Study & ask the Holy spirit for understanding.
2. Many of the thoughts about God are merely false notions, let's look for answers from the scriptures.
 - a. He is just out there or up there (Acts 17: 22-29)
 - b. He is a rich but far away, generous relative (Psalm 139: 7-12)
 - c. He is a competitor not a friend. (1 Corinthians 12: 12-27)
 - d. He is a policeman on the prowl. (Luke 5: 31-32 & 19: 1-10)

II. God and Christ are real and they love us in all circumstances.

1. God created each person differently and we are always learning about others and His love.
 - a. Our knowledge is constantly unfolding by His revelation. (Romans 11:33-36).
 - b. God and Christ work in tandem and not in opposition.
2. Christ is a God Man accepting His Father's love wish to grant us salvation on a cross and in the resurrection.
 - a. Christ then becomes the window to God. (Luke 10: 22 & John 14: 6-11)

- b. Christ is a man for God. (Luke 11: 1-4 & John 11: 41-42)
- c. Christ is a man for others:
 - In Life (Matthew 9: 18-26)
 - In Love (Luke 10: 25-37)
 - In Giving (Mark 8: 1-9 & Luke 5: 5-7)

III. We hear that God is Love and ask the question: “Why is pain and suffering so widespread in our world.”

1. The fall, not God, led to all that is wrong in the world (Genesis 3: 16-20)
 - a. God’s power is displayed in the presence of extreme evil. (Example: The church in Russia)
 - b. Hurt and pain produce character and maturity. (Personal Example)
 - c. *he trials produce obedience, deepen our love for Him and steers us to His love.
2. We live with hope that He will eventually wipe away every tear and we will live with Him eternally.
 - a. His promises have been true, are true and will be true.
 - b. We cannot escape His love regardless the circumstances in our lives (Romans: 8: 39)

IV. God calls us but we must respond to His outreach of love by opening our hearts and extending our hands to Him.

1. Explain the REC Logo. (Example: We lift our hands in worship and extend our hands to another in greeting)
2. We turn to God in love and prayer: we turn to our neighbors in care and concern.
3. The Great Commandment should always be in our mind. (Matthew 22: 34-40)