

Sermon Questions: Love Works

Matthew 22:34-40

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word “love”?
2. Pastor Mark argues that people who learn to love well experience a better and more meaningful life. Do you agree or disagree?
3. Read Matthew 22:34-40. Why do you think Jesus boils down the essence of the commandments and the teachings of the prophets to “Love”?
4. Why do you think “loving God” is the first commandment, ahead of loving others?
5. Pastor Mark suggests that love is a skill we develop, not an emotion we feel. Love is a doing, not a feeling. What do you think about that?
6. Have you ever done something you didn’t feel like doing, but you did it out of a commitment to love someone? What was that like?
7. Many people argue that if you act differently than you feel, you are being fake or phony. That may be true if you are trying to deceive someone, but why is it important to sometimes act in spite of your feelings when you are trying to love someone?
8. Pastor Mark argues that we are raising a generation that is often taught to value feelings over everything else; to “follow your heart” and “go with your gut.” In what ways might this philosophy be unhealthy?
9. What is meant by the statement, “feelings make useful servants but terrible masters.”
10. Pastor Mark lists the Five Love Languages: Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Thoughtful Gifts, Acts of Service, and Tender Touch. Which of these “languages” most resonates with you?