

There is Hope Radio
2-9-25-Transcript
Walking Out God's Love
PreacherRichD

The following broadcast is sponsored by *Standing in the Gap*. Our focus is intercessory prayer for individuals, the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, and America. Check us out on the web at standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. That's standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org. Welcome to *There is Hope*.

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In my last two broadcasts, the topic was, what is love? I described the various types of love and focused on agape love, which is God's type of love.

Today's broadcast is titled, *Walking Out God's Love*. I'm going to let you know ahead of time, this is a let's get real message specifically for Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, but it is applicable to every family, every community, every church in America and the world. In the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas. In the Bible Belt in general, there are many that call themselves Christians, but I will say I've heard, I've read, I've seen much that is far from loving. I will talk more about that in a moment, but let's look at what the Bible says about those who claim to be Christians or specifically Christ followers.

The Bible says people will know who we are as Christ followers if we have love one for another. Specifically, John 13, 34 to 35 says, I'm giving you a new commandment that you love one another, just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. .³⁵ By this all *people* will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.”

Verse 35, by this, what's the this? How he loved the disciples. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another. So the Bible is saying people will know if we are Christians if we manifest the same kind of love that Jesus manifested to his disciples.

It can be safe to say that Jesus manifested agape love, which has these characteristics. It's selfless. Agape love is a choice to love others without expecting anything in return. Agape love is unconditional. It's not based on attraction or obligation. Puts no demands upon how you must behave to be loved. Agape love is sacrificial. It's one to sacrifice for the sake and the good of others. Agape love is kind. It's filled with kindness and empathy. We're going to focus on that type of love specifically in regards to what's been taking place in Fairfield Bay and other communities. And then agape love is universal, is given to anyone and everyone, rather the recipient is a Christian or an atheist, agnostic, pagan, follower of another religion, likable or unlikable. Agape love is universal and unconditional.

Also, to be balanced, agape love also speaks the truth with love and compassion. Jesus spoke the truth many times to his disciples and to others, but he spoke it without hate, condemnation or vindictiveness.

So let's get back to Fairfield Bay, Arkansas and let's get real. And I am going to be real on this broadcast. First I want to make it clear that I'm going to be making some generalizations to make some points.

Second, thankfully most of the residents of Fairfield Bay or any community in America are not like those who speak out the loudest and are very disgruntled individuals who speak words of hate, condemnation, bitterness and vindictiveness. Thankfully, most citizens are not known for their mocking, labeling, insinuating, assuming, spreading gossip and half-truths. Now here's something I want you to think about.

Some of those who manifest this type of ungodly behavior call themselves Christians, but they are far from manifesting the character and love of Christ. Either they are not true Christ followers or they are very dysfunctional individuals that need healing in their life. They still need transformation to take place in their life. They need to truly experience the love of Christ in their life. And I'm going to be bold and say it. Some may need some demons cast out of them.

In fact, I will make even bolder statements. If you have truly experienced the love of God through a relationship with Jesus Christ, you will certainly fall short at times because we all fall short at times. Maybe you'll fall short many times, but overall you will have a love for God and you'll want to obey His commandments and you will have a love for people.

Again, you, I may stumble and fall, but overall we should manifest the love of God more than the character of Satan. I will go even further and say if we sin publicly, when God brings conviction upon us, we should repent publicly.

There should be some kind of evidence of John 13, 35 in our lives. By this, all people will know that you're my disciples if you have love for one another. If people are really wondering if you're a Christian or not, if people are really wondering if you're a person that has any kind of love or not, then I'm going to bring a challenge to you. You need to look at your life and say, are you truly born again? Because if you're truly born again, your goal will be to manifest the love found in 1 Corinthians 13, verses 4 through 7. We've covered them in the past, but I just want to read them. And I want you, the listener, I want you to ask yourself, do I have this type of love in my life or not? Am I saying I'm a Christian and do I manifest this type of love? 1 Corinthians 13, verses 4 to 7. Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous, love does not brag, it is not arrogant, it does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit, it is not provoked, it does not keep an account of a wrong suffered, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth, it keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

So, listen to me, if you're not walking in God's love in your interactions with others, if you're more known as the one who spews poisonous words, if you're manifesting this behavior towards those who are Christ followers, it's time to ask yourself what type of relationship you have with Jesus Christ. If you do not identify as a born again Christian, then your behavior and actions make sense. But if you claim to be a born again follower of Jesus Christ, and you're manifesting totally unloving behavior, there's a question if you're just a totally messed up Christian, or if you're truly born again. Let me say that again. If you claim to be a born again follower of Jesus Christ, and you're manifesting totally unloving behavior, there's a question if you're just a totally messed up Christian, or if you're truly born again.

Now I will tell you, I've been a totally messed up Christian, especially in my early years of Christianity. Coming out of being an atheist and coming to God, coming with a lot of pride, narcissism. I still battle with narcissist at times, to be quite honest. I was a really messed up Christian. I truly wasn't showing the love of God at times. I was born again, but I had issues in my life. I needed to be healed. I needed to be delivered. I needed to move beyond the past of some things in my life. So maybe that's you. But listen to me. There is some very good news.

Father God loves those who are not Christians, and He loves those who are really messed up Christians. He loves everyone, and so does Jesus. He was willing to die on the cross for all of us, every single one of us. And the Holy Spirit loves each of us also. That is why maybe right now He may be telling you that you need to repent from your ungodly behavior. Right now maybe the Holy Spirit is telling you that you need to make amends to others for your behavior. Maybe right now the Holy Spirit is telling you that you need to turn your life over to Jesus Christ for Him to be truly the Lord of your life and not just the Savior of your life. So, you have to ask yourself the question, is my lifestyle, is my behavior, is my actions, is my words reflecting the character of God? Is it reflecting the love of Christ, or is it reflecting the character of Satan? I know this is a harder message, and you're probably going to get some more harder messages from me in the next few weeks, because the Lord is really speaking to me to speak truth in love. I speak all this in love, not in judgment.

Again, I have fallen short so many times, and I certainly have not manifested the love of God many times. Sadly, I have run out of time when I could say so much more, but I want to pray for all who are listening, especially for those who have not walked out the love of God.

Heavenly Father, you know first off that all of us fall very short of who you want us to be, that we may be truly born again, love you with all of our heart, but we are still broken, messed up people. We will be broken, messed up people until the day we receive our glorified bodies. And so Lord, we're not judging or condemning, but Lord, you know that there are those who are listening, some who have manifested ungodly behavior, you're convicting them right now, and Lord, maybe they feel some guilt, maybe they feel some shame, maybe they feel some condemnation, but if they know Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior, there is no shame and condemnation that they need to walk through, because they can do a simple thing, and that's repent. Right now, they can say, Jesus forgive me, I have not walked out the manifest character of God. I have not showed the love of God. I have spoken words of hatred and bitterness and unforgiveness. I have mocked individuals, I've spread gossip, I've made insinuations and accusation assumptions that I should not have done. I've been caught guilty of being wrong, and I want to make things right with you God right now.

So Father God, I would pray for individuals who are in that condition, that right now they would ask for your forgiveness, and that Lord, you will erase all the wrong behavior, you'll erase it from their lives, and that Father God, I would pray that they would make amends they need to make to those who they have harmed, and Lord, even if that means they need to go publicly and confess, because they have written and stated things publicly that have been damaging and harmful to others, and that Lord, if you're convicting them, that they will make amends publicly. And then Father God, there are those who the reason they manifest such behavior is because they have no relationship with Jesus Christ, they have no true relationship with God. The reality is, is they need a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The reality is, they need to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. So, Father, if there's anybody in that

condition, anybody that's listening at all, Lord, you're speaking to them right now, that the reason they're acting the way they're acting is because they are the Lord of their life instead of you. They have heard of the gospel before, they've heard about the good news of Jesus Christ, they have heard, they may even know in their heart that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior, and that they understand that salvation is through Him. But they've said, I'll allow Jesus to be the Lord of my life later at some other point in time when it's more convenient, the best convenient time, the most convenient time to receive Christ is when the Holy Spirit is convicting, because He may not convict later on, so if the Holy Spirit is convicting you now to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I would challenge you to do that right now. Ask Jesus to take control of your life. He loves you, He cares for you, listen, He wants to bring healing in each of our lives, so if you need healing in your life, He can bring healing to your life. If you need transformation in your life, we all need transformation in our life, we need Him to continue to transform us, will you ask Him right now to transform you? Jesus, right now, will you transform each and every one of us, make us more like Jesus, bring more love of Christ in us, Lord, help us to manifest the love of God, help us to make a difference in our world, help us to do what we can to create positive futures in other people's lives by manifesting the love of God. We want to walk out the love of God, we want to be more like Jesus, and will you do that in our life, and we thank you and praise you, Lord, that you send your Holy Spirit to us to empower us, to give us the grace to manifest the love of God.

So help us today, right now, today, right after we listen to this message, to do our part to show more of the love of God to those around us, starting with our family, starting with our spouses, our children, starting with our relatives, starting with our neighbors, going into our community, that Lord God, we will just start manifesting more of the love of God. Let me pray this in Jesus' name.

I know this was a harder message, but listen, God loves us, He cares about us, He wants to see us transformed and changed, and He will do the work in us, we don't have to feel guilt, we don't have to feel shame, we don't have to feel condemnation, because Jesus Christ can bring the change, He can give us the grace to be people that are transformed and changed, and healed, but isn't it time for some truth to come out in love? And we just thank you for listening, in Jesus' name, Amen.

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