



BREAKING THE ICE

If you could go to any major sporting event, which one would you go to and why?

If you had to eat one thing every day for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin started a new series talking about what the world needs now. The first thing the world needs is love.

We all need love. God is the source of love and nothing can satisfy us like God. When we love God well, we love others well. When we are living our life with God, His spirit is in us.

1. Whom do you know that exemplifies love well in your life? How do they exemplify love well?

In 1 Thessalonians 5:23, we learn we are made up of 3 parts: body, soul and spirit. Your body is the outer part of you; what you see in a mirror. Your soul is the inner part of you; it's your mind, will, emotions, conscience. It's what many people would call your personality. Your spirit is the innermost part of who you are, this is the part of you that comes alive when you put your trust in Christ.

Sometimes we don't understand how we have become alive in Christ and still struggle with sin. We need to remember: **transformation is a process.**

Read Romans 12:2

When we read the Bible and study it, our minds can be renewed by the words God gives us. Pastor Kevin says, " We begin to believe differently, think differently, act differently, live differently, love different. God's spirit touches our soul, which touches our bodies, and God transforms our life from the inside out."

2. How have you experienced scripture renewing your mind and helping you live life more like Jesus?

MAIN CONTENT

Religion promotes change from the outside in, Jesus promotes change from the inside out. Right now the world needs us fully alive, with the Spirit of God in us, changed from the inside out.

Read Galatians 5: 13-26

Just focusing on these sins and things we can't do is not helpful. We're human and we are bound to fail and sin again (and again, and again). We can be aware of our sin and then look to Jesus to forgive us and help us move from it, to start living our lives like Him. When we focus on Jesus leading us we start living our lives in the Spirit.

The fruit of the Spirit is love. We need to put love in action and when we follow God's spirit, it leads us to an action-oriented love.

3. Pastor Kevin asked the question, "What does love require of me?" How would you answer that question?

Love requires us to slow our roll. Love and hurry are not compatible. You can't love well if you are always in a rush. When we are hurried we make a mess of things. We don't give love a chance to really work if we are always rushing it.

4. What are the areas in your life where you need to slow down in order to love better?

Love requires us to pay attention. When you pay attention to anything, it requires your time, energy and agenda. Paying attention to someone is one of the most basic forms of love. Once you divide your attention, it loses value. When you are with others and you divide your attention, you are telling them they are less valuable than what you are giving your attention to.

God is the best example of giving attention. He sees us, we have His undivided attention, always.

5. Do you have anyone in your life that does a great job of giving undivided attention?

6. Where would you rate yourself on how you give attention to others? Explain.

Love requires that we do not keep short accounts. Holding offenses doesn't get us anywhere. It can lead to bitterness, anger, hurt and resentment.

God does not hold accounts when we do something wrong. After God forgives us, He doesn't bring it

back up. When we hold on to someone's wrong it's almost impossible to love them.

7. What offenses do you need to let go of?

Love requires us to serve others. When we love, we serve sacrificially with nothing in return. Jesus did not just tell His disciples He loved them, He served them to show His love for them. Love requires sacrifice.

8. Where do you experience sacrificial love in your life? How can you love others sacrificially?

The fruit of the Spirit is love, that is God's spirit working in and through us when we love. What does love require of us? To yield to God's spirit and love how He would have us.

PRAYER

God, with all the hurt in the world it can be really easy for us to get overwhelmed and offended. Will you please help us see where we get easily offended and where we go to other things and people to find love? Will you show us where we need to slow down and see others and not just focus on our agenda for the day? We repent of these things, Lord. Fill us with your spirit to love others well. Amen.

ACTION STEPS

Take account of what love requires of you this week. Take some time to ask yourself these questions:

1. Where do I need to slow my roll?
2. Where and whom do I need to give more attention to?
3. Where am I holding short accounts (offenses) with others?
4. Whom am I serving?

Make a plan to slow down - put more time in your schedule to have the flexibility for you and to see others. Repent and ask God to help you forgive the offenses you are still harboring towards others. Start serving others. This could mean serving on one of our local ministry teams, your friends, neighbors, whomever. Come back next to discuss what love required of you.

For more ideas on how to serve at Cross Point go to: www.crosspoint.tv/getinvolved