

“People Matter”

Make today **count**

Psalm 39:4 NLT

“LORD, remind me how **brief** my time on earth will be. Remind me that **my days are numbered**— how fleeting my life is.”

“I wish there was a way to know you’re in the good old days before you’ve actually left them.” Andy Bernard

In the end, **people** matter.

Matthew 22:36-38 NLT

“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” Jesus replied, “‘You must **love** the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the **first and greatest commandment**.

Matthew 22:39-40 NLT

A second is **equally important**: ‘**Love your neighbor as yourself**.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are **based on** these **two commandments**.”

People **Matter** to God

What is **love**?

John 3:16 NLT

“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.”

Romans 5:8 NLT

“But God showed his great **love** for us by sending Christ to **die** for us while we were still sinners.”

Love is a **Decision** Dr. Gary Smalley & Dr. John Trent

What does love **require** of me? Andy Stanley

Imagine a world where people were at times critical of us because of what we believed, but **envious** because of how we loved.

“**See** how they love one another!” Tertullian 197 AD

“They do not keep for themselves the goods entrusted to them. They do not covet what belongs to others. They show love to their neighbors. They do not do to another what they would not have done to themselves. They speak gently to those who oppress them, and in this way, they make them their friends. It has become their passion to do good to their enemies. They live in the awareness of their smallness. Everyone of them who has anything gives ungrudgingly to the one who has nothing. If they see a traveling stranger, they bring him under their roof. They rejoice over him as over a real brother, for they do not call one another brothers after the flesh, but they know they are brothers in God. If they hear that one of them is imprisoned or oppressed for the sake of Christ, they take care of all his needs. If anyone among them is poor or comes into want while they themselves have nothing to spare, they fast two or three days for him. In this way, they can supply any poor man with the food he needs. This oh Emperor is the rule of life of the Christians, and this is their manner of life.” Aristides 137 AD

What does love **require** of you?

Matthew 25:31-40 NLT The Final Judgment

“But when the Son of Man comes in his **glory**, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his **glorious throne**. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world**. For I was **hungry**, and you fed me. I was **thirsty**, and you gave me a drink. I was a **stranger**, and you invited me into your home. I was **naked**, and you gave me clothing. I was **sick**, and you cared for me. I was in **prison**, and you visited me.’

“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever **see you** hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever **see you** sick or in prison and visit you?’

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Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ’s Church of Marion County

July 14, 2019

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“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

In the end, people **matter**.

What does love **require** of you?