

LOVE DOES

"Love Serves"

Pastor Tyler Scott // September 23 & 24, 2017

INTRODUCTION

Our LOVE DOES series is based on **1 John 3:18**: "Dear children, let us not love with just words or speech, but with actions and in truth." The series began with a message titled "Love FINDS," and the main idea was simple: "Found people find people." This week's message was "Love SERVES," and the main idea was equally simple: "Saved people serve people."

We'll dive into the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and learn who, how and why we are called to serve.

WARMING UP

1. Share about a time when someone went out of their way to serve you and/or your family.
(*What did they do? Why? How'd it make you/your family feel?)
2. When was the last time you went out of your way to serve someone?
(*What did you do? Why? How'd it make them/you feel?)

TALK IT OVER

1. The main idea of this "Love SERVES" message was "Saved people serve people." Why do you think this idea makes sense to most people—whether they're Christians or not?
2. **Read Romans 10:9-15.** The term "saved" is actually a biblical term that describes our need FOR a savior (because of our sins), and the role of Jesus AS our Savior. Do you remember when you made the decision to trust Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, and eternal life? Share your story about if/when that happened in your life.
 - a. Given what Jesus has done for us, what is our motivation for serving others?
 - b. When you serve someone else, what are some of the things you hope will happen?
3. **Read Luke 10:25-37.** In this passage we're reminded to love God and love our neighbors. One of the critical questions comes from v29, "And who is my neighbor?" In the message, the answer was 3-fold: loving/serving your neighbors includes 1) your ACTUAL neighbors, 2) whoever you encounter "next" throughout your day (i.e. the next person you encounter who has a tangible need), as well as 3) your enemies.

3. *Continued...*
 - a. How well do you know your literal neighbors? When was the last time you served them in a tangible way? What is one way you could serve them this week?
 - b. What is one way you could "be ready" to serve whomever you encounter "next" on any given day?
 - c. How can you serve your "enemies?" (*This can include people you don't like, people you resent for any reason, rivals, etc.)
 - a. Have you ever had someone whom you THOUGHT was your ENEMY actually SERVE you? What happened?
4. **Read v30-35.** This reminds us of tangible reasons we AVOID serving others, as well as tangible ways we CAN serve others.
 - a. Both the Priest (the religious elite) and the Levite (the socially elite person, with many connections to the religious elite) passed by the person in need.
 - a. What are some reasons THEY may have used to avoid serving the man in need?
 - b. What are some reasons WE use to justify not serving other people more often?
 - c. What ACTIONS did the Samaritan take to love/serve the man in need?
 - d. Besides volunteering at church and Serve Day, what are some tangible ways we can serve others in our path?
5. The final portion of the message dealt with WHY we should serve others, and brought us back to the ways in which Jesus has served us.
 - a. In **v33-35**, what similarities do you see with what Jesus has done for us?
 - b. How often do you think we love/serve others as a means of "justifying ourselves" (see v29)? Explain how you think this works.
 - c. How often do you think we look at love/serve others out of gratitude for how Jesus has loved/served us? Explain how you think this works.
 - d. Why is it important to look at SERVE DAY as a "starting point" for serving, rather than a "one and done" opportunity to "check the box" for serving others?

CHALLENGE

SIGN UP as a family or group for SERVE DAY, and make plans to serve at one of our 25 projects on October 7/8. (To sign up: www.cpcdanville.org/serveday)

COMMIT TO MEMORY

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind," and "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Luke 10:27**

PRAY ABOUT IT

Share prayer requests. Pray for the opportunity to serve individually and as a group in the coming weeks. Also, pray for the people you will be serving...that your service would show them that God loves them. Pray that eventually, those served people would be saved by the grace and love of Jesus.