



CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Knowing & Experiencing God
Topic	The Mark of Jesus
Speaker	Ps Darren Kuek
Date	16 th & 17 th April 2016

Message Summary

Love as the Mark of Discipleship

As followers of Jesus, we are called to have love for one another, just as He has loved us, so that by this, people will know that we are His disciples. Ps Darren guides us on the importance of loving one another and how we can practise it.

The Mark of Jesus

Sermon key verses: John 13:34-35

What is this mark?

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:35)

During the Last Supper, Jesus washed His disciples' feet and gave them the above commandment. His actions were meaningful in two ways. One, Jesus' kneeling and washing of the disciples' feet, a lowly task usually done for one by servants of a house, had a powerful effect on the disciples. Their pride and contention was removed through Jesus' humble act. Two, Jesus had given the disciples a mark by which they could be identified even if He was physically absent. In the past, the disciples had been easily identified by their proximity to Jesus, but on this night forth, He would depart for the cross and no longer be with them.

This verse emphasizes that our defining mark as Jesus' disciples is our love for one another, and that everyone, not just family and fellow Christians, can recognize us by this. Ps Darren highlighted that recognition of our discipleship is not related to church attendance, spiritual acts or even performing miracles, but rather, our love for others. In 1 John 3:23, we are given further insight into this commandment: to believe in Jesus is to love one another, and the two instructions cannot be separated.

Let us reflect: Do we in BBTC love one another? Does love define us? Ps Darren encouraged us to go beyond our comfort zones, to clarify conflicts and restore relationships among one another, and to not pick and choose those who we love. The mark of Jesus is having love for one another, and we should let our lives be defined by love (1 John 4:8; 1 Corinthians 13:2-3).

How is it carried out?

Jesus set the example of washing His disciples' feet, and asks us to do the same for one another (John 13:14-15). We are called to exercise the principle of self-denial for the profit of others. This means to put aside our ranks, titles, motives, and ultimately our lives, for the benefit of others. Self-denial is not natural to us, and we may be required to sacrifice our time and resource but we do so in order for love to define



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us. Jesus set the bar for demonstrating the full extent of love, by his words in John 15:12-13 (“...*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends*”), and by his deeds in dying on the cross for us.

In practising this principle, we can start by asking ourselves:

1. How much of our thoughts are for others?
2. Will others say that I love them?

A simple way of living out this principle in church is by responding whenever there is a need. Examples include praying with other church members so that they are not alone, ensuring cell members have transport home, reconciling instead of pulling away when there is conflict, and so on.

The opposite of this principle is *self-profit through the denial of others*. We must be mindful not to see things through the lens of self-profit, and not limit our love and care to only ourselves and our families, especially since God has sacrificed His only son for us. We must also beware of the distortion of the purpose of scripture to profit or elevate ourselves, and put others down. This can arise when we (mis)use scripture to “back up” our arguments, or use it against someone in a relationship (e.g. (1) Leader vs Member – Hebrews 13:17 vs 1 Peter 5:2-3; (2) Husband vs Wife – Ephesians 5:22-24 vs 25). Ps Darren explained that the person who receives the commandment/instruction is the one who is responsible for it; therefore the other party cannot claim the right in the commandment or use it “against” the person.

What happens when it is carried out?

When we begin to give love, a perfecting takes place inside us (1 John 4:11-17). This perfecting of love is not the result of receiving love, but giving it. As God’s love fills our lives, we are transformed, and His love is perfected in us. This perfect love casts out all fear (1 John 4:18). In loving one another, and in being transformed, we become recognized by the world as Jesus’ disciples.

Questions

1. Why is having a love for one another the mark of Jesus?

(Fill In Answer Here)



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2. Describe a situation when you were able to deny yourself for the benefit of someone else. What did you overcome in the process of self-denial?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3. What are the names of people whom God has called you to love in this season? How will you demonstrate your love for them?

(Fill In Answer Here)