



DATE January 10, 2016

SPEAKER David Smith

TITLE Intentional Love

SERIES No one can live without it. If you have everything, but this, you're left with nothing! There is no replacement for it as it's at the heart of humankind's existence. It can be the most difficult word to define, and yet it's essential for emotional health. No relationship can survive without it, and every person can live because of it. Love! So, how do we intentionally love?

1. Pastor David's goal is for us to be able to define and understand love. What is your working definition for love? Explain the difference between love and like. Do you believe a person can live without love? Can a person give or receive too much love?
2. Read **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**. Focusing on verses 4-6, which aspect of love do you struggle most with? Paul tells us in verse 8 that *love never fails*. As Christ-followers, why do we fail at love if we have God's love in us? Have you been taught love by word or action? What is the danger in giving up on love?
3. Discuss real life situations to support Pastor's love equations:
Everything – love = nothing
Nothing + love = everything
4. Pastor David defined love *to intentionally will someone good*. If someone loves but no one acknowledges that love, is it love? Who is the motivator of your love? Read **1 John 4:7-8, 19-21**. What does love without God look like? What does love with God look like?
5. 2016 Resolution: *Be a church of people who will be intentional and ruthless about love!* Why do you think he used the term *ruthless* to describe love? Read **1 John 3:16-18**. How can you be ruthless about love? Describe the difference between your behaviors when you are *intentional* about love with when you are unintentional about love.
6. We need to know how those we love hear love so we can love them. How do you hear love? What needs to occur to heighten your awareness toward an *intentional* and *ruthless* love toward everyone?
7. Agape love is the goal of all Christ-followers. Read **1 Timothy 1:5**. How does **Ephesians 3:17-18** reveal God-powered love and love that is ready to be seen as unloving? Agape love keeps loving regardless of unresponsive, unkind, unlovable and unworthy people. What phrase from **1 Corinthians 13:8** supports this action from agape love?

Share a time you experienced agape love from someone other than God Himself through Jesus Christ His Son.

CLOSING: Resolutions are meant to bring solutions for areas of our lives where we can be stronger. The church will be stronger when we are intentional and ruthless about love!