



Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

This week's Big Idea was "Love the world's souls, not the world's stuff."

It's the answer to why John 3:16 says "God so loved the world" while 1 John 2:15 tells us NOT to love the world. Proverbs 6:16-19 is one of many scriptures that demonstrate God's hatred of sin, and as we read Sunday, Psalm 97:10 calls us to join God in despising evil. So while we obviously can't love the world's stuff, we are commanded to love the world's souls. 1 John 3:23-24 tells us to love Jesus and love one another. 1 John 4:19-21 tells us if we don't love our brothers, we don't love God. Knowing we must love and value the world's souls, we looked at the life of the Man who fleshed this out the best: Jesus.

1. Jesus loved the world by giving it what He had.

He sacrificed His time, talents and treasures for the sake of people. If you're not willing to sacrifice your time, talents and treasures for the souls of men, you have an idol on your hands. 1 John 2:17 tells us these things are passing away. Jesus used them with the mindset that He "couldn't take them with Him."

2. Jesus loved the world by giving it what He could have had.

Instead of an immortal human life of power, riches, fame, armies, etc., Jesus opted for a meek life of poverty, homelessness, dishonor, and mockery, because only this way could He love the world and remedy its sin. For us, following Jesus and valuing souls might mean we don't fulfill our own wants, desires, and dreams as we could. Is the salvation of those around us worth this sacrifice?

3. Jesus loved the world by giving it what He shouldn't have.

Jesus willingly gave up His life to pay for the sins of a world that will rebel and repeat those sins on a daily basis. We certainly didn't deserve this action, but He loved us enough to do it. In light of this, we must respond with the same grace to those around us. We must show grace to those we come in contact who just don't deserve it.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- ❖ What do you struggle giving up the most? Your time, talents or treasures?
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 talks about our gifts and says we are ALL gifted for the common good of the Body. Do you really believe this? What gifts do you have that you can offer up?
 - ❖ Have you ever had to choose ministry/people over some sort of lifestyle upgrade? (i.e. refusing a promotion that would handicap/harm your ministry, not buying something because someone needed the money, giving something valuable away you could have used or sold)
 - ❖ Matthew 6:19-21 tells us to store up treasures in Heaven, not on earth. We obviously all still have treasures on earth. How do we balance these and keep our treasure in perspective?
 - ❖ Read Timothy 6:17-19. Our core value "We value simpler living and expect a lifestyle of contentment to enable greater and more generous giving" comes from this passage. How do you feel about this core value? How are you doing with it?
 - ❖ Does your life demonstrate that you genuinely believe the phrase "You can't take it with you"?
 - ❖ The examples Phil shared of things we should give to people that don't deserve them were:
 - Forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32)
 - Kindness (Romans 2:4)
 - Forgiving physical/emotional debts people won't or can't pay back (Matthew 18:21-35)
 - Going above and beyond for the demanding (Matthew 5:41)
 - Loving and praying for your enemies (Matthew 5:44)
- *How are you doing with these? How can you improve? Are there others you thought of?

Give people what they don't deserve from YOU, to show them what they don't deserve from GOD!