

Bay City Wesleyan Church
September 11, 2016

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Sunday Morning 09-11-2106

Our lives will come in line with Jesus' mission when his love flows out of us to others, however, to love like Jesus will require us to seek a filling by the Holy Spirit.

<http://bible.com/events/94373>

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Why Wesleyans Baptize Babies

Find six good reasons for baptizing babies at this link. The short article is by Dr. Keith Drury, retired professor, Indiana Wesleyan University.

<http://www.drurywriting.com/keith/0bapbaby.htm>

Mile Markers on Your Spiritual Journey

Are you making progress on your spiritual journey? Are you headed the right direction? How do you know?

Starting next Sunday, September 18th, we will look for a few of the "Mile Markers on Your Spiritual Journey." There are several shifts in our souls that develop on our spiritual journeys. Bring a friend next week so he or she can discover the mile markers too.

Prayer for those who don't know Jesus yet:

Heavenly Father, you do not wish for any to live and die without you. We pray for these people who need Jesus in agreement with your desire. Let your will be done in these individuals. Give us the strength and tenacity to continue praying for them. King Jesus, your will be done. Draw them in to a living experience of your love. Bring them to the point of turning back to you. Bring them into your kingdom and family. Help them to embrace and live in your love. Amen.

Jesus seems more than a little unreasonable to me.

Sometimes as I read my Bible, I discover things that are humanly impossible. Listen to Jesus' commands about love.

Matthew 5:43-48 NLT

"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

John 13:34-35 NLT

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Matthew 25:43-46 NLT

I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.' "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?' "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.' "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the

righteous will go into eternal life.”

Matthew 22:35-37 NLT

One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: “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.’

If we have the courage to confess the truth, we all act like Jesus seems more than a little unreasonable.

We may never say it aloud; we may never even dare to think it, but we act like his commands are unreasonable.

Like a light bulb without electricity,
like a car without fuel,
like a hose without a water source,
like a grill without charcoal,
like a seed without soil,
like a body without oxygen,
like a river without water,
left to ourselves we simply don't have the power to love like Jesus.
We are empty. We cannot.

Why would Jesus demand a love we cannot produce on our own?

About 2000 years ago, the apostle Paul addressed a letter to the Christians in Galatia - an area in the country we call Turkey. These followers of Jesus started out trusting his grace to make them right with God. However, some teachers came and convinced them they could obey Jesus' commands on their own power. Paul wrote to set them straight; to put them back on the right track.

Please notice as we read how central love is to the life of a Jesus follower.

Galatians 5:13-26 NLT

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

1. There's a reason Jesus seems unreasonable and his commands are impossible to

obey.

We all - every human being - we all reek with a rebellious, independent attitude that inevitably leads us into sin. We tend to love ourselves more than anything and anyone.

One of the first phrases a child learns to say is "I can do it myself." One of the last phrase aging adults say is "I can do it myself." At times, we are right we can do it.

But when it comes to loving others and God as Jesus teaches, we cannot do it. That independent attitude will not help us love like Jesus.

2. The Holy Spirit produces a competing and conquering counter conviction to that independent attitude.

The Spirit brings a new sentence to our lives. "Let's do this together."

The moment we agree to work with him, we experience the power to change, to be transformed, to love like Jesus.

Sermon in a Sentence:

If you want to love them like Jesus, then you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit like Jesus.

You need to be filled with the Holy Spirit like Jesus.

You may think you can love like Jesus, but you cannot. It's impossible unless the Holy Spirit fills you as he filled Jesus. You need to take an "Un-Selfie" approach toward following Jesus.

First Steps:

· Give up the self-made person attitude by admitting that left to yourself you cannot love like Jesus.

· Give up the self-centered approach to life by asking the Holy Spirit to turn your attention out toward others.

· Give up the self-sufficient phrase, "I can do it myself" by saying, "yes" when the Spirit says, "Let's do this together."

We can begin to love like Jesus with the Holy Spirit filling us with his love.

Our expressions of love will take the time to develop, just as our verbal expressions took a while to develop. But...

Like a light bulb with electricity,
like a car with a full tank,
like a hose with a water source,
like a grill with charcoal,
like a seed with soil,
like a body with oxygen,
like a river with more water than it knows what to do with,
the Holy Spirit makes it possible to love like Jesus.