

Group/Individual Study

Series: "Be Free" - The Freedom of Unexpected Love

Passages: Galatians 6:1-5

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 4/2

1. Read Galatians 6:1-5. In the earliest centuries, one of the factors that led to the explosive growth of the faith was the uncommon love people could see in the lives of Christ followers. It was love for one another within the body. It was love for enemies. It was love for the least in society. Love like this had never been seen before. How does it help Christian witness in the world to live out the love of God in practical ways? How does it harm our witness when we don't?
2. There are around 59 "one another commands" in the Bible. They range from positive commands like "love one another" to prohibitions like "don't be haughty to one another." Look through the list of the "one anothers" in the worship bulletin. What stands out to you? Are there common threads to the things we ARE to do to one another? Are there common threads to the things we ARE NOT to do to one another?
3. Henry Cloud and John Townsend, Christian psychologists, wrote a book called *Boundaries*. They spend time in it looking at Galatians 6:2 as compared to Galatians 6:5. At a casual glance they can seem contradictory in English. But the word translated "burdens" in v2 literally means "burdens that are too large to bear" where as the word translated "load" in v5 means "normal and appropriate responsibilities." How does this inform how we are to love and help each other?
4. Think of the most important relationships in your life. Read through the list of "one anothers" again. Which do you feel God might be calling you to live out more earnestly in these relationships? Why?
5. Do you think the people who watch how you live see a type of love that is distinct from the world around us? Is there some act of practical love that God might have you perform towards a neighbor, coworker, or someone else this week?