

Church 45th Anniversary Joint Worship 教會 45th 週年堂慶聯合崇拜
October 9, 2022

Sermon 證道: Rev. Trevor Brawdy, EFCC Prairie District Superintendent
“Let’s Practice our Profession 讓我們一起來活出信仰”
1 John 約翰一書 4:7-21

Introduction

- The theme this year at Calgary Chinese EFC is "Do everything in love" from John 15:12 where Jesus says, "**This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.**"
- And I’ve been asked to speak on 1 John 4:7-21 today, and been given the title for the message – “Let’s Practice our Profession”
- Today: #1.Describing Love...#2.Revealing Love...#3.Practicing Love

引言:

- 今年卡城華人播道會的主題是「凡事憑愛而做」。源自約翰福音 15 章 12 節所記載耶穌說：「你們要彼此相愛，像我愛你們一樣，這就是我的命令。」
- 今天我被要求根據約翰一書 4:7-21 的教導發言，並被賦予了信息的標題“讓我們一起來活出信仰”
- 今天：#1.愛的描述…#2.愛的顯示…#3.愛的實踐

1. Describing Love

- In the NT, there are different Greek words used for love...and the one used by John throughout 1 John is “Agape” love
- A simple definition of Agape love is this: “a pure, willful, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another’s highest good”
- And I would add to that definition, that Agape love always results in action
- In this letter, John further explains Agape love for us
- 1 John 3:16 – “We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us.”
- 1 John 4:8-10 – “...God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”
- And so right off the bat there are important truths to know about love:
 - ❖ God loves us
 - ❖ God is love...He is love in his inmost being
 - ❖ God’s love always results in action
 - ❖ Do you want to know what real and active love looks like?

1. 愛的描述

- 在新約中，有不同的希臘詞語用於表示愛…約翰在約翰一書中所使用的那一個是 “Agape” 神聖的愛
- Agape 的一個簡單定義是：“一種刻意渴望追求他人最高利益的既純潔、又執著且犧牲的愛”
- 我要對這個定義加以補充，Agape 的愛，總會帶來行動。
- 在這封信中，約翰對我們進一步解釋了何謂神聖的愛
- 【約壹三 16】「主為我們捨命，我們從此就知道何為愛；我們也當為弟兄捨命。」
- 【約壹四 8】「沒有愛心的，就不認識神，因為神就是愛。」【約壹四 9】「神差祂獨生子到世間來，使我們藉著祂得生，神愛我們的心在此就顯明了。」【約壹四 10】「不是我們愛神，乃是神愛我們，差祂的兒子為我們的罪作了挽回祭，這就是愛了。」
- 這段經文馬上就說明有關於愛的重要真理：
 - ❖ 上帝愛我們
 - ❖ 上帝就是愛……這是祂內心深處的愛
 - ❖ 上帝的愛總會帶來行動
 - ❖ 你想知道真實而積極的愛是什麼樣的嗎？

❖ Then you must look at the Cross, where Jesus is the sacrifice who takes away our sins

- Q: Have you received His love...have you repented of your sin and placed your trust in Jesus?
- God's love transforms us...we're made new...we're born again
- God's love saves us...it delivers us from facing his wrath against our sin, because Jesus absorbed that wrath for us (verse 10)
- This first part has been describing God's love...Now, let's look at Revealing Love

❖ 然後你必須看看十字架，耶穌就是那位除去我們罪孽的犧牲者

- 問：你是否接受了祂的愛……你是否為你的罪悔改並相信耶穌？
- 上帝的愛改變了我們……我們得以更新……我們重生了
- 上帝的愛拯救我們……它使我們免於面對祂對我們罪惡的憤怒，因為耶穌為我們的罪作了挽回祭為我們吸收了那憤怒(10節)
- 這第一部分描述了上帝的愛...現在，讓我們來看看愛的顯露。

2. Revealing Love

- God's actions in sending God the Son to become human...and then to the Cross to be the sacrifice for our sins...these actions reveal God's love for us
- Big reveals are a big deal these days
- It's fun to participate in a big reveal...HGTV the reveal of a home reno...Gender reveals are a big deal these days...Award shows like the Oscars or the Grammys... the opening of the envelope that reveals the winner...lots of drama in the reveal
- In our passage today, we discover that our love for each other is also a big reveal
- First of all, our love for one another reveals our relationship with God
- In 4:7 John urges his readers, "**Let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.**"
- Our selfless love that seeks the good of others reveals that we're children of God
- In 4:12, John writes, "**...If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us**"
- When we love one another, we are revealing that God the Holy Spirit lives in us
- The full expression of the love of God is realized as we love one another
- Secondly, our love for one another reveals our obedience to God

2. 愛的顯示露

- 上帝差遣聖子成為人類...然後上十字架，為我們的罪獻祭...這些行動，彰顯了上帝對我們的愛
- 在當今世界，向社會大眾公開顯示，往往成為一件大事
- 能夠參與那些重大的顯示時刻，是很有趣的...在家園電視頻道，我們會看到當重新建造裝潢的房子，向屋主顯示時的感人場面...如今，性別披露（就是在懷孕期間向準父母的家人和朋友透露嬰兒性別的活動）顯得很重要...在奧斯卡或格萊美等頒獎典禮中...主持人打開信封，宣布獲獎者是誰時...這許多的披露或顯示，皆極富戲劇性
- 從今天的講章裡，可以發現，我們對彼此的愛，也是一種很重大的顯示。
- 首先，我們對彼此的愛，顯示了我們與上帝的關係
- 【約壹四7】約翰敦促他的讀者，「...我們應當彼此相愛，因為愛是從神來的。凡有愛心的，都是由神而生，並且認識神。」
- 我們尋求他人利益的無私之愛，表明我們是上帝的孩子
- 約翰在約翰壹書 4:12 寫道：【約壹四 12】「...我們若彼此相愛，神就住在我們裏面，愛祂的心在我們裏面得以完全了。」
- 當我們彼此相愛時，我們就顯明聖靈住在我們裡面
- 當我們彼此相愛時，就能夠實現上帝那完全之愛。
- 其次，我們對彼此的愛，表明我們對上帝的順服

- In 2:7-8 John writes, “**Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment – to love one another – is the same message you heard before.**”
- Our obedience to Jesus’ command to love one another reveals that we truly love Jesus
- Jesus says in John 14:23-24 – “**All who love me will do what I say...Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me**”
- **Thirdly**, our love reveals that we actually know God
- Look again at 4:7 – “**Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God**”
- This isn’t just knowing about God...it’s knowing God personally, experientially
- As we love one another...it’s the big reveal that we actually truly know God
- The next reveal, is that our love for each other reveals that we’re abiding in Christ
- 4:16 – “**...God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them**”
- In order to be able to love one another with agape love, we need to be abiding in Jesus...finding all our nourishment and strength and life from Him
- An image in my mind as I thought about this...those inflatable air/wind puppets
- With the air inflating them...lots of life and action...but no air...they’re flat and crumpled and lifeless on the ground
- **Finally**, our love for one another reveals that we truly love God
- 4:21 – “**He has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers**”
- We prove that we love God when we love our brothers and sisters in Christ
- In our passage we’re seeing that our love for one another is a big reveal
- And we also discover that failing to love one another...that’s also a big reveal
- Failing to love one another reveals that we don’t know God – 4:8 – “**Anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love**”

- 約翰在約翰壹書 2:7-8 寫道：【約壹二 7、8】「親愛的弟兄啊，我寫給你們的，不是一條新命令，乃是你們從起初所受的舊命令；這舊命令就是你們所聽見的道。」
- 我們順服耶穌彼此相愛的命令，就可以表明我們真的愛耶穌。
- 耶穌在約翰福音 14:23-24 中說：【約十四 23、24】「...『人若愛我，就必遵守我的道；...不愛我的人就不遵守我的道...』」
- **第三**，我們彼此相愛，顯示表明我們確實認識神
- 再看約翰壹書 4:7【約壹四 7】「...凡有愛心的，都是由神而生，並且認識神。」
- 這不僅僅是知道上帝的存在...而是對上帝發自個人、親身經歷體驗的深刻認識
- 當我們彼此相愛時...是我們真正認識上帝的重大顯示
- 下一個顯示是，我們對彼此的愛，表明我們住在基督裡
- 【約壹四 16】「...神就是愛；住在愛裏面的，就是住在神裏面，神也住在他裏面。」
- 為了能夠以 Agape 神聖的愛彼此相愛，我們需要住在耶穌裡...從祂那裡，找到我們所有的營養、力量和生命
- 當我想到這裡時，腦海中浮現出一個個有很多充氣玩偶的畫面
- 當玩偶被吹氣膨脹後，個個活靈活現；但如果把空氣放掉，它們立刻就會萎縮躺平在地，毫無生氣。
- **最後**，我們對彼此的愛，顯示我們真的愛上帝
- 【約壹四 21】「愛神的，也當愛弟兄，這是我們從神所受的命令。」
- 當我們愛我們在基督裡的弟兄姐妹時，就證明我們真愛上帝了
- 從今天的講話中可以看到，我們對彼此之間的愛，就是一個很重大的顯示
- 同時，我們還可以發現，如果弟兄姐妹無法彼此相愛……這也是一個很重大的顯示
- 不能彼此相愛，表明我們不認識上帝——【約壹四 8】「沒有愛心的，就不認識神，因為神就是愛。」

- Failing to love one another reveals that we don't belong to God – 3:10 – **“Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God”**
- Failing to love one another reveals that we don't know God...and tragically reveals that we're liars
- We can't say we love God if we don't love one another...with actions, selflessly doing what is best for others
- One more big thing that our love for one another reveals
- When we love one another, we reveal God's love to an onlooking world
- Jesus says in John 13:34-35 – **“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.”**

- 不愛彼此，表明我們不屬於上帝-【約壹三 10】「…凡不行義的就不屬神，不愛弟兄的也是如此。」
- 不愛彼此，表明我們不認識上帝…這更可悲地顯示出，我們其實是個虛偽的騙子罷了
- 如果我們不愛彼此，我們就不能說我們真的愛上帝…透過行動，無私地去為他人，做出對他最好的事情。
- 我們對彼此的愛，更顯示了另外一件大事
- 當我們彼此相愛時，我們向一個慣於袖手旁觀的世界，展示了何謂上帝的愛
- 耶穌在約翰福音 13:34-35 中說——【約十三 34】「我賜給你們一條新命令，乃是叫你們彼此相愛；我怎樣愛你們，你們也要怎樣相愛。」【約十三 35】「你們若有彼此相愛的心，眾人因此就認出你們是我的門徒了。』」

3. Practicing Love

- Finally today, I want to turn our focus to Practicing Love
- We say we love each other...let's put that into practice
- But not selectively...we can't pick and choose whom we will love
- 1 John 4:11 and 4:21 – **“Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love one another...And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters”**
- We're called to love in action, not merely with words
- And I love the fact that the title today is “Let's Practice our Profession”
- Practice means we're still growing, still improving
- We're not perfected yet
- This summer I read a book about the Chicago Bulls in the 1990's
- And I was surprised to learn that it was Michael Jordan, their superstar, who worked harder than anyone else on the team, in practice

3. 愛的實踐

- 今天最後，我想把我們的注意力轉向愛的實踐
- 我們說我們彼此相愛…讓我們把它付諸行動吧
- 但行動不是選擇性的…我們不能挑選那一部分是我們想去愛的人
- 【約壹四 11】「親愛的弟兄阿，神既是這樣愛我們，我們也當彼此相愛。」【約壹四 21】「愛神的，也當愛弟兄，這是我們從神所受的命令。」
- 我們被呼召去行出愛，而不僅僅是說說而已
- 我喜歡今天的講題“讓我們一起來活出實踐信仰”
- 實踐意味著我們仍在成長，仍在進步
- 我們還沒有達到完美無瑕
- 今年夏天，我讀了一本關於 1990 年代，芝加哥公牛隊的書
- 我很驚訝地得知，他們的超級巨星邁克爾喬丹，在訓練時，比球隊中的任何其他人都更加努力

- When it comes to practicing love for one another, we can always work on and improve our game
- God loves you...and you must respond by loving each other, how God loves you
- And so practicing our profession of love for one another must lead us to:
 - ❖ Serve each other with humility – Jesus took the lowly position of a slave and washed his disciples’ dirty, stinky feet...and then told his disciples to do the same for each other
 - ❖ Are we willing to love each other by humbling ourselves below one another?
- Practicing our profession of love must lead us to:
 - ❖ Practice Hospitality...not attempting to impress, or put someone in a position where they “owe” us...hospitality = literally, “love of strangers”...hospitality is the door that can open up to opportunities to share the Gospel
- Practicing our profession of love must lead us to:
 - ❖ Meet each other’s very real and very practical needs...and not just those inside the church, but in the community as well
 - ❖ 1 John 3:16-17 – **“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?”**
 - ❖ Again, I stress that we can’t be selective when it comes to loving one another
 - ❖ Our call is to love the brothers and sisters...our call is to love our neighbor... our call is to even love our enemy, in the way that God has loved us

- 當談到彼此實踐愛的行動時，我們總有可以互相努力改進的空間
- 上帝愛你...而你必須以彼此相愛，來回應上帝究竟如何的愛你
- 因此，實踐我們彼此相愛，就必然會讓我們：
 - ❖ 謙卑地為彼此服務——耶穌以奴隸的卑微地位，為門徒洗了又髒又臭的腳……然後告訴眾門徒，也要為彼此做同樣的事情
 - ❖ 我們是否願意透過謙卑自己，來彼此相愛？
- 活出愛必然會讓我們：
 - ❖ 實踐熱情好客...不要試圖給人留下深刻印象，或讓某人處於他們“欠”我們的位置...熱情好客的字面意思是“對陌生人的愛”...熱情好客是可以打開分享福音機會的大門
- 活出愛必然會讓我們：
 - ❖ 滿足彼此非常真實和非常實際的需求……不僅僅是在教會內的需求，社區中的需求也應當如此
 - ❖ 【約壹三 16】「主為我們捨命，我們從此就知道何為愛；我們也當為弟兄捨命。」【約壹三 17】「凡有世上財物的，看見弟兄窮乏，卻塞住憐恤的心，愛神的心怎能存在他裏面呢？」
 - ❖ 我再次強調，在實踐愛的行動時，我們不能有選擇性
 - ❖ 我們的呼召，是要愛弟兄姐妹...我們的呼召，是要愛我們的鄰居...我們的呼召，甚至是要愛我們的仇敵，就像上帝愛我們一樣

- Practicing our profession of love must lead us to:
 - ❖ Accept one another...in Romans 15 we're commanded to accept each other just as Christ has accepted us...He accepts you because He loves you
 - ❖ Put others' and their interests ahead of our own...in the same way that Jesus put us and put our needs ahead of his own...because he loves us
 - ❖ Forgive one another...in Colossians 3 we're commanded to forgive anyone who offends you...Jesus forgave you, so you must forgive others...He forgives you because he loves you
- Application: Seek out reconciliation with those you've had broken relationship with...don't wait for them...Jesus reconciled you to God because he loves you
- In the SOTM, Jesus teaches that if you know there's a brother or sister who has someone against you...you are to take the initiative to make things right
- Q: Is the Lord bringing someone to mind for you?
- Someone whom He's calling you to reach out to in love...and forgive...seek reconciliation with...serve...a face in your mind...a name coming to you?
- May you obey the Holy Spirit's nudging...may you practice your profession
- God loves you so much...the Cross of Jesus is the proof
- May we practice our profession and love one another

- 活出愛必然會讓我們：
 - ❖ 互相接納……在羅馬書第 15 章中，我們被命令要互相接納，就像基督接納我們一樣……祂接納你，因為耶穌愛你
 - ❖ 將他人和他們的利益，置於我們自己之前……就像耶穌，將我們和我們的需要，置於他自己之前一樣……因為他愛我們
 - ❖ 彼此寬恕……在歌羅西書第 3 章中，我們被命令，要寬恕任何冒犯你的人……耶穌寬恕了你，所以你也必須寬恕他人……他寬恕你，因為他愛你
- 在日常生活應用上：與那些與你關係破裂的人尋求和解……不要等待對方……耶穌讓你與上帝和好，因為他愛你
- 耶穌在登山寶訓中，曾教導說，如果知道你的弟兄姐妹中有人反對你……你就要採取主動，把問題解決
- 問：上帝有沒有讓你想起某個人？
- 祂呼召你去愛的人…並且寬恕…尋求和解…或者服侍…在你心中的一張臉…在你面前出現的一個名字？
- 願你順服聖靈的輕推…願你活出實踐你的信仰
- 上帝如此愛你……耶穌的十字架就是明證
- 願我們活出實踐我們的信仰並彼此相愛