

## Pastoral Notes

'Licensed to Love'- John 15:9-17.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent we celebrate Love. God is a Spirit and God is Love. His unconditional love led to Jesus dying on the cross to reconcile us back to God.

**Jesus commands us to love one another as he loves us because you never fully know what it is to live until you know what it is to love.**

The bible shows us three love forms. Eros love is erotic and temporal, based on

your expectations. It **allows you to forgive wrongs done in the past, present and future** because Agape love convinces you there is more worth and value in others than you can see.

In this love manifesto recorded by John, Jesus teaches that if we love him we must obey him and honor his commandment for us to love freely. He has given each of us a fully paid up irrevocable, irrefutable, irreversible license to love.

**When we show love to others, we are actively demonstrating the Glory**

### Key Sermonic Points:

1. *Jesus gave up his life, we just need to give up our pride.*
2. *Without love you are incomplete.*
3. *You must learn to love loving.*

self-satisfaction. It has an 'external love object' but an 'internal focus'. When joy is gone, love dissipates and the Eros lover disappears. Phileo love is a higher form of love promoting 'our happiness' and not just 'my happiness'. The most common form of love, impresses I can love WHO you are, even when I don't like HOW you are.

The **highest form of love**, however, is **Agape love**, which is a **royal, unconditional love**. **It is not fueled by merit but by worth**. Agape love **allows you to see great worth in people** who even fall short of

**of God as reflected in the fruit we bear.**

Don't let pride inhibit your ability to show love to those who may not love you back. **You are capable but must also be willing to use your license to love**. What others don't give you, Jesus will. Let him complete you.

I strongly encourage you to hear the full message from our website or a CD.

Stay Blessed,  
Pastor Robbie

## Nuggets:

- People can let you down so let love be the object of your love and not people
- Advent comes from the Latin word Adventus which means arrival or coming of someone of supreme significance.
- Christianity is the only religion known to man whose God so loved his creation that he sent his only begotten Son to die for them.
- Love crosses boundaries of religion, color, culture and politics
- Agape love says, I may not enjoy doing what you want, but its okay as long as I'm doing it with you.
- You were not given a heart to hate, but a license to love.