



Sermon Notes

Term – Spring Term

Series – 1 Corinthians 13

Gathering & Date – 10am 240319

Title – From Shame to Love

Preacher –Neil Shepherd

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

Main message of this talk in one sentence: A knowledge and experience of God’s love enables us to walk free from our old nature and shame

Main points of the talk:

Watch the YouTube clip from the Brit Awards – Thursday by Jess Glynne

https://youtu.be/qCRfDi_8lo

Although the lyrics speak of a world response, these lyrics also highlight the cries of our heart which is to be free from ‘feeling broken’, ‘sick of covering up’ (this is the biblical definition of shame), ‘shy...anxious....insecure.....don’t want these tears inside my eyes’ and the cry of God heart which is to ‘sing...dance...feel love’ God’s heart for His people is to know this type of freedom.

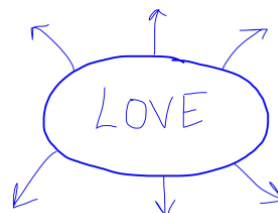
Last week, we looked at the theme of shame and talked about this being a big boulder in our lives that stops us engaging with God.



Shame is the emotion that is at the heart of our old self and is expressed through different behaviours that try to cause us to hide and cover up. Another way of viewing these behaviours is through what we (in our old self) prioritise and what God prioritises:

OLD SELF	GOD
Rules	Relationship
Laws	Love
Being right	Being real
Seeking the Word of God	seeking the God of the word

This old self has been dealt with by God, in Christ from Ephesians, and we can now live in our new self – the new creation.



As a new creation, we get all the gifts addressed in 1 Corinthians 13 (plus many more) but without the knowledge, filling and experience of God’s love we are just ‘a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.’ Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at the passage from 1 Corinthians 13 and giving us time and space to recognise the love expressed in this passage as the love that is in the very nature of God.

God is 'patient, kind, keeps no record of wrongs, rejoices with the truth, it protects, is always trustworthy, and always perseveres.' This the the God who loves us and cares for us and will never let us down.

Over the coming weeks, will we allow God the time and space to reflect on these verses and allow Him to reveal Himself more fully.

For further thought and prayer –

1. What have our reflections been over the last weeks as we have thought about our last discussion?
2. Has anyone got a story of encouragement from the last week where you have seen god at work in your life or someone else's life.
3. On a scale of 1-10 how would we measure of knowledge and experience of God's love?
4. Do you recognise the temptations of the old ways of thinking that cause us to prioritise rules over relationship; laws over love and knowing God's word rather than knowing the God of the word.
5. In reading 1 Corinthians 13 which aspects of God's love resonate as truth for you?
6. Which aspects of God's love (from 1 Cor 13) cause us to stop and think – do I really know that to be true in my life?
7. What does freedom look like for you at this stage of your walk with Jesus?
8. Pray for each other, listen to God, for words of encouragement and life.