

Renewed: Week 3 Renewed Love¹

Scripture: Revelation 2:4 // John 21:15-17

Introduction:

Today, we want to look at the renewed love that God wants us to develop toward him.

Point 1: When we love God, it should be obvious by the way we live, the things we do and the things we say.

To be a follower of Jesus is to be in love with God at the core of who we are.

The need for renewal comes when we neglect our relationship with God and other things steal our attention.

When we don't put God first, we almost always put ourselves first and everyone suffers.

Chapter 2 of Revelation begins with praise for the church in Ephesus. They are praised for their deeds, hard work, and perseverance.

They are praised for identifying false apostles and protecting orthodox teaching.

But after all the praise there is one issue that God has with this church.

That is our Memory Verse for today. Revelation 2:4

POINT 2: A LOVE NEGLECTED IS A LOVE LOST

We have a lot of reasons for forgetting our first love too.

Sometimes it is laziness.

Sometimes it is a love for sin.

Sometimes it is disappointment in Jesus.

(Reference our Gospel Verses: John 21:15-17)

In the verses just before today's Scripture we hear that after fishing all night, they have nothing to show for it.

Suddenly from the shore comes a familiar voice.

To their surprise, it is Jesus.

Peter, overjoyed, leaps into the water and swims to the shore.

Jesus made breakfast and welcomes Peter to sit with him.

¹ Outreach INC, Sermon Series Renewed

Jesus is offering Peter a second chance. A renewed love is all about second chances.

There is no end to the grace of God. We cannot exhaust the love of God.

It is no mistake that Jesus addresses Peter three times to ask him if he loves him.

Three times would be an appropriate number since Peter had just denied Jesus three times.

There is a very important aspect to this story that gets lost without looking at the Greek word within the conversation between Jesus and Peter.

The first two times Jesus asks Peter if he loves him, he uses the Greek word *agape*.

Agape love is the highest form of love and is a love that is sacrificial.

Both times Peter responds he affirms his love by using the word *phileo*.

Phileo love is a brotherly love that exists between close friends.

As Jesus renews Peter's love, Jesus invites Peter to a commitment of love that has only been demonstrated by the death of Jesus on the cross for all people.

Peter responds with a lesser love as if to recognize his limitations of loving as fully as he could.

The final time Jesus asks about Peter's love he uses the word that Peter has used twice, he uses *phileo*. This third time Peter confirms that he loves Jesus with a love that is equal to the question.

In a renewed love for Jesus, he does not demand a love of perfection.

Closing - OUR LOVE FOR GOD CAN STILL WORK

There is no amount of brokenness in our lives that can keep us from the love of God.

Today I want to invite you to renew your love for God and recommit to fostering a relationship with him.

There are some really practical ways to do this.