

Without Love, the World Will Languish

Isaiah 9:1-7; John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:7-21

December 13, 2020

Social media has normalized the sharing of pictures, opinions, and unfounded prophesies. It's also normalized the use of hateful tones and statements. How can this be? After all, a written post doesn't contain tone ... right? WRONG!!!!!!!

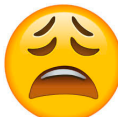
Our world has found ways to MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE PASSION WITH WHICH I AM COMMUNICATING!!!!!!!—without speaking a word. And during 2020, the amount of unloving, dishonorable, disgusting, divisive talk, tone and tearing-down of others seems at an all-time high.

Nothing's really changed, except the way the world communicates ideas like love and hate, friend and foe, in and out.

It's into this world that God sends Jesus. Why? Because of God's love for every single human being, creature, and living organism on this planet. Remember God made it all; God made us all. God loves the created world and every single human being.

This week, we light the candle of love as we recall the words of John, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...."

These emoticons are conveying an emotion ... can you name them all?



Sermon Notes:

1. Since _____, those who claim to be believers must exhibit this characteristic on a regular basis. Jesus came not only to show _____, but came as a _____ from God to us.
2. Too often, we equate the loving scene of the _____ with Advent season more than we do the scene of the _____.
3. Love must be more than a _____, _____, _____, or _____. Love must combine these four with an added ingredient: _____.
4. When you reflect on great Bible verses about love, what are a couple you think of beyond those mentioned in this lesson?

Scramble Sessions on Zoom:

Visit our website for the link:
nwchurch.com/live

1. Show-and-Tell: Grab something you have in your home, wallet, or even your phone that represents someone's love for you and share it with your group. At the heart of it, why does this represent love?
2. What's one gift you would like to give this year to express your love for someone else?
3. In these difficult times, what's something you've experienced that helped you feel loved and valued by someone else?