

“Love for Jesus is demonstrated most accurately in our love for His children.”

PULPIT CURRICULUM

COMPETING LOVES John 21:15-19

1. REVIEW

Read John 21:15-19. What is the context for these verses? What has been happening in the lives of the disciples? What do you think Peter has been experiencing internally?

What was Jesus' purpose in asking Peter the same question three times? What was he after?

What are some competing loves that we struggle with? How do competing loves impact our ability to fulfill the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37-40)?

2. ASSESS

We don't struggle to love God because we lack capacity. We are always loving SOMETHING to the fullest of our ability. We struggle to love God because we are loving the wrong things, in the wrong amounts, at the wrong times. What is competing against God for your love today?

Suffering helps us see what matters and what doesn't. Recall a time that suffering helped you see what really matters and increased your love for God. What happened and how did that increase your faith and love?

3. APPLY

In many ways, Jesus was highlighting a gap in Peter's life - the gap between SAYING and DOING. This is a time to make a commitment to closing that gap in your own life. Choose one of the following two options and commit to defeating competing loves and growing in active love for Christ.

1. Love says "What can I give?", not "What can I receive?" Make a specific commitment to love someone specific through your time, talent, and treasure.

2. We often run to what we're used to for comfort and safety when things get tough. Just as Jesus was asking Peter to give up fishing, what do you need to give up to follow Jesus more fully?

MY GROUP'S COMMITMENTS

SERMON NOTES & QUOTES

- 1A) Competing loves are a common problem.
- 2A) Competing loves are detected in the gap between saying and doing.
- 3A) Competing loves are exposed through caring conversation.
- 4A) Competing loves are eliminated through the process of suffering.

Use the space below to write down any memorable points or thoughts from the weekend's message.

5 DAY READING PLAN

DAY 1

READ 1 John 3:3-24

What I learned (observation/interpretation):

How I will respond (application):

DAY 2

READ Hebrews 6:10-12

What I learned:

How I will respond:

DAY 3

READ 1 John 4:7-11

What I learned:

How I will respond:

DAY 4

READ Ephesians 5:1-2

What I learned:

How I will respond:

DAY 5

READ 1 John 4:19-21

What I learned:

How I will respond:

To learn more about studying the Bible, look for the "Essentials of Growing in Christ" class starting soon at your campus.