

Sunday, September 16, 2012

Pastor Steve Schmidt

Title of the Message: Keeping Vibrant Our Love for Each Other

Scriptures: John 15:9-17

We have great reasons to keep our love for each other alive and well:

- Jesus said so, and what he says we do.
- We promised to do so. (See 793 in the hymnal – it's our church membership commitment.)
- Church love strengthens and empowers each of us.
- Our love for each other is the foundation for our outreach.
- Our love for each other proves that we are Jesus' disciples.
- Our love for each other communicates that Jesus is the Savior Messiah.

So just how do we keep our love for each other vibrant?

- live by, and live up to our commitments
- with smiles, handshakes, hugs and friendly conversation. (God wants the church to be really good at this!)
- by acting loving whether we feel like it or not. (Research shows that the 'feel good' hormone oxytocin rises in people who do this. And it is not being hypocritical if you want it to be true – if you are doing it in obedience to Jesus. Research also shows that you can 'live your way' into positive feelings for others. In other words, with the right attitude, acting loving and lead to feeling loving.)

Our commitment love will be noticed and will attract people. Our respectful actions and kindness toward church members will be noticed and attract people. And when we actually like each other, that will be noticed and attract people. All this will tell people we are followers of Jesus, and that Jesus is alive and still the Savior of the world.