

# Now What?

## Learning to Love without Compromising Truth

(Reflections from the message on Sunday – May 29, 2016)

### Be A Friend - like Jesus did

*And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. <sup>19</sup>For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.*

*<sup>20</sup>So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"*

**2 Corinthians 5:19-20 NLT**

1. What do friendships offer?

We may not see the act of atonement from God as an act of friendship, but when Jesus came to share the truth He explained His sacrifice exactly in those terms: *"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command"* (**John 15:13-14**). In other words, you are a friend of God if you desire to keep His commands and accept Jesus as the act of atoning grace from God.

2. How do we act toward others that would resemble the friendship that Jesus wants with us?

**James 4:10**

3. **Ephesians 4:2**

Loving humility toward others is seen in these three characteristics:

- a.
- b.
- c.

## Now what? Loving Without Compromising the Truth

We know that our mandate from **2 Corinthians 5:19-20** is to share the message of reconciliation just as if it were Jesus speaking – we are His ambassadors.

We are to take down walls of separations in the same manner Jesus did.

He observed the needs of others. In **Mark 6:35-44** Jesus performed one of the most miraculous social miracles recorded. As a friend He found a way to meet the needs of thousands of people. As a friend would we have such determination? Such faith? Such dependence upon others?

4. What methods did Jesus demonstrate in getting the needs met?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  
5. What does Peter share about being a friend to people outside the faith?  
**1 Peter 3:13-16:**
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.