




Do The Math



$$2+2 = 22$$



Imagine This ...

- From the time you are crawling you were taught that $2 + 2 = 22$
- All of your growing up days, it was drummed into your head that $2+2=22$
- All of your training in arithmetic was adjusted to account for this mistaken assumption
- You even went to school to study this arithmetic, you got graduate degrees in it, made speeches about it, wrote books



And Then One Day

- Decades later, you stumbled across old math textbooks you had never studied before, in which it proved conclusively that $2+2 = 4$

■ **FOUR??!!** 😞

- And your entire world instantly changed
- You had to rethink EVERYTHING from the beginning, and learn an entirely new way to live in this world



Raises a Few Questions

- Would this be a hard adjustment to make?
- How long do you suppose it would take for this new insight/truth to become fully integrated into your thinking and your application to life in the world?
- Wouldn't be automatic, would it?
- It would be easy, even normal, to slide back into the old way of thinking, right?
- Ok, hold that thought.



Now, In A Believer's Life ...

- Most of us have been saved for a really long time, and we have learned a lot of stuff and our lives have been changed
- So, based on your experience of being saved all these years, what is the most important thing we all know a faithful Christian is supposed to do on at least a weekly basis?
- Go to church on Sunday morning, sit in rows and listen to the preacher up front give an inspiring talk to help you do better and try harder.



BUT Now We Are Learning

- That the most important thing, the one thing above everything else that a disciple of Jesus is supposed to do at least on a weekly basis and hopefully even more often is
- Love those around you the way Jesus loves us, and even become friends to SINNERS
- And most of the time, most of those people will be found where
- NOT IN CHURCH IN SUNDAY MORNING!



Shout Out to John Alexander

TWIST



For All Practical Purposes

- For most of our lives we have been believing the spiritual equivalent of $2+2=22$
- That the most important thing a Christian can do every week is go to a building and sit in rows and stare at the back of the head of the person in front of you and listen to someone give a talk, then come back next week and do it all again.
- But Jesus, in His final commandment, said we are to *love others the way he loves us.*



We Become Where We Abide

- **Abide in My love**
- **Be immersed in My Love**
- **Draw your life from My Love**
- **My Love will become the source of your life**
- **And now it gets interesting**
- **Remember, GOD is LOVE**
- **Ephesians 3:19 says that as we begin to understand His love, we will be filled up with whatever fills God, which is ...**



Filled with Divine Life - Love

- **God's love is not just something we receive to make us feel special**
- **God's love is something we BECOME**
- **HIS PLAN, OUR DESTINY, IS TO BECOME THE LOVE OF GOD WALKING AROUND ON EARTH**
- **As much as we study and practice, we can't make that happen,**
- **but His love in us can, as the Holy Spirit lives in us and loves us just like the Father does with the Son**

What Does That Look Like?



What If It Looks Like This?





Life Together

- **12** Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy,^[i] kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and forgiving^[j] one another, if someone happens to have^[k] a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others.^[l] **14** And to all these^[m] virtues^[n] add^[o] love, which is the perfect bond.^[p]



Love Is Action in Real Life

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart (**for you were in fact called as one body^[a] to this peace**), and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ^[r] dwell in you richly, **teaching and exhorting one another** with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, all with grace^[s] in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

So That We Look Like This?





So Do The Math

- Abiding in MY love, the love that God has for his son that the son is now extending to us, where he wants us to live ...
- Actually has a lot to do with us extending **that love**, that uniquely powerful and transforming love that covers all sin ...
- To each other and to the whole world as we live together as one Body that is Christ on earth, in Granite Shoals Hoover Valley?
- Not just on Sunday morning!!!



Good News, YOU ARE

- **deeply loved by God,**
- **fully accepted by God,**
- **completely and permanently forgiven by God,**
- **lavishly blessed by God,**
- **and eternally, perfectly embraced by God**
as his child; a child who brings Him
unspeakable JOY