What’s Love Got to do with it?
CORE #5 – Love

Introduction:
We’re continuing in our study on the CORE values of Coastal Community Church. We’ve looked at Watchfulness and Authenticity. Today we come to the third of the values that drive what we do and how we think at Coastal; Love. To start with, I thought it might be fun to find out how a few folks describe love…specifically elementary children...

- Love is when a little old man and a little old woman are still friends, even after they know each other so well.
- Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on after shave and then they go out together and smell each other.
- Love is when you tell a boy you like his shirt and then he wears it every day.
- Love is when mommy gives daddy the best piece of chicken.
- Love is when daddy comes in all sweaty and smelly and mommy still tells him that he is handsomer than Robert Redford.
- Love is when you go out to dinner with someone and you give them most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.
- You know you love someone because your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.

What’s love got to do with it; What’s love, but a second-hand emotion?
What’s love got to do with it; What’s love, but a sweet old-fashioned notion? [Tina Turner]

What’s love got to do with it? EVERYTHING!

Here’s how we’ve defined our core value of love: “Doing the most loving thing because all people matter to God, because God is love.”

I. The Demonstration of Love (Romans 8:35-39)
A. We can’t be separated
   1. (cwrisei) “isolated by introducing considerable space”
   2. Have you ever felt that there’s a “space” in a relationship?
   3. Have you ever felt that there is a space in your relationship with God?
B. Nothing can separate us
   1. Tribulation – squeezed or placed under pressure
   2. Distress – narrow space...helplessly hemmed in
   3. Persecution – systematic affliction perpetrated by others
   4. Famine – not enough food
   5. Nakedness – destitution in which a person cannot adequately clothe himself
   6. Peril – general danger
   7. Sword – death (being killed by someone)
   8. 36 Refers to Heb. 11:36-38 and the historical suffering of the people of God. Life is difficult and contains separation level circumstances
C. More than conquerors
   1. To be completely and overwhelmingly victorious
   2. Beyond the possibility of defeat (in Christ)

II. The Definition of Love (1 John 4:7-12)
A. The source of love is God
   1. Love is “out of” God (source)
2. The one who loves demonstrates that they have been born of God and know Him
3. The one who does not does not know God
4. God “is” love – to be identical with (God is the definition of love) – He doesn’t simply measure up to some standard outside of Himself

B. The proof of love is God’s Son
   1. “manifest” – cause something to be fully known by revealing clearly and in some detail
   2. God sent his only Son that we might live through Him
   3. NOT that we loved God BUT (that’s just common sense)
   4. God loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (Rom. 3:25)
   5. Trust in Jesus (share the gospel)

C. The reflection of love is us
   1. If God loved us THIS much...
   2. We have a moral obligation to love one another
   3. When we love; others see God’s love brought to completion...

III. The Distribution of Love (1 John 3:17-18)
A. The negative
   1. Has earthly possessions
   2. Sees his brother in need
   3. Closes off his heart (does not show compassion)
   4. How does God’s love abide in him? (obviously, it doesn’t) – rhetorical question

B. The positive
   1. Let’s not only talk about love
   2. Let’s actually love (by our actions)

C. Some ways that we actively love each other:
   1. Share our resources with others
   2. Speak the truth (be honest)
   3. Encourage others
   4. Pray for (and with) other
   5. Hold each other accountable (challenge)
   6. Work together

Some thoughts to take home:
   1. You are loved thoroughly by God in Christ.
   2. If you are in Christ, NOTHING can distance you from your Heavenly Father’s love.
   3. The world sees the God’s love most vividly when the church loves them as Jesus does.