

MSG: STRONG LOVE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:14-21 ESV

SZN 1: REVIVAL THROUGH REPENTANCE

Romans 12:14-21 ESV

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

1. STRONG LOVE OVERCOMES EVIL WITH GOOD

Romans 12:17, 21 ESV

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

WEAK LOVE IS EASY, STRONG LOVE IS DIFFICULT

WEAK LOVE IS RANDOM, STRONG LOVE IS DELIBERATE

WEAK LOVE CODDLES IMMATURITY, STRONG LOVE CELEBRATES MATURITY

1 Corinthians 13:11 ESV

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.”

2. STRONG LOVE BLESSES THOSE WHO CURSE YOU

Romans 12:14 ESV

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.”

Our attitude of love matters as much as OUR actions of love matters

WEAK LOVE IS LIMITED BY CONDITIONS, STRONG LOVE IS UNLIMITED WITH NO CONDITIONS

OUR ATTITUDE OF LOVE MATTERS AS MUCH AS OUR ACTIONS OF LOVE MATTERS

WEAK LOVE IS TRANSACTIONAL, STRONG LOVE IS TRANSFORMATIONAL

Romans 12:20 ESV

“if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”

“Love is a transformative force,

When we face pain in relationships our first response is often to sever bonds rather than to maintain commitment.”

-Bell Hooks

WEAK LOVE IS FLAKY, STRONG LOVE IS COSTLY

“The practice of love offers no place of safety. We risk loss, hurt, pain. We risk being acted upon by forces outside our control.”

-Bell Hooks

3. STRONG LOVE DOES NOT TAKE REVENGE

Romans 12:19 ESV

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

WEAK LOVE IS TEMPORAL, STRONG LOVE IS SPIRITUAL

WEAK LOVE IS PROUD , STRONG LOVE IS HUMBLE

WEAK LOVE IS ACCIDENTAL, STRONG LOVE IS INTENTIONAL

- 1. FRIENDS- “what Family is supposed to be without the last name”**
- 2. ASSOCIATES- Common schedules, common interests**
- 3. ASSIGNMENTS- People we invest into**
- 4. ADVISORS- People who invest into us**

**WEAK LOVE REMOVES STANDARDS,
STRONG LOVE UPHOLDS STANDARDS**

MY ACCEPTANCE OF YOU DOES NOT MEAN MY APPROVAL OF YOUR BEHAVIOR

Isaiah 52:1

“Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem...

1 Corinthians 13:13 ESV

“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”