

12/15/24

Sermon – Pragma Love

Scripture – Ephesians 4:2

Main Message – Pragma love is an enduring love that is based upon logic, necessity, and like most loves, mutual respect.

There is another kind of love that exists that works well in today's modern world. Sadly, and I'm as big an offender in this regard as anyone, it is to have a pragmatic approach to love, but more on that later. This kind of love develops and endures *because* of logic, necessity, mutual respect, duty and time. It helps immensely with personal relationships, business relationships, and remarkably well in military service.

Read Ephesians 4:2

I like the military example because out of necessity, you are forced to look past your personal feelings, preferences, and such to complete the mission given to you in the military. In fact, you are called to sacrifice time and time again, in little ways and in big ways. Those big ways can even mean one's life, especially for those who are in combat. You see, serving in the military and working with those around you makes logical sense and is filled with necessity. You must get along with your teammates. You must hold up your end of the bargain. You must keep watch at 2AM so others can sleep. You watch each other's back. After all, if you're snuck up on by the enemy because you weren't paying attention, you and your team are dead. A successful military mind is wired to pay attention to every detail. You become highly suspect, highly critical, and must discern friends from foes and you guard the guy next to you that you might never have chosen as a friend. You high five a guy because you complete a mission successfully even though you might not even know anything personal about him.

My "military history" parents, my time in the Air Force, my physics background, and my business experience has fine-tuned this quality in me to the point that it's hard for me to get out of "pragma" love mode and into others love modes which could be much more appropriate for the situation. OH, it has served me well in the world but leaves me lacking in all the other types of loves we have discussed. I need to work on that.

Pragma Love is a very rational type of love. It's more of a contractual type of love than a romantic one. So here is how a pragmatist considers love. It is my duty, so that means I must... This means you've already lost the emotional passionate connection, but it is still there.

I'm guessing that each of you also need to work on some kind of love. But more on that next week.

Pragmatic Love in the Bible can be seen in the disputes between Apostles, or the emphasis placed on true doctrine and in the Church Body, it is often found fully. You can love and have disagreements. Its Okay as long as it doesn't cross over into something destructive.

As Pastor, I have a duty to you. It is very pragmatic. It is my responsibility. I am called to do it – because I did not choose it. Therefore, I must do it and I will do it. Being of Service even when I don't want to is very pragmatic. I am not a martyr, yet for this point to be made. I am there for you when you need me. I ache when I fail you. I don't sleep when I have faltered. I agonize over my faults. Pragma love is based on commitment. I never ever want to be the one who fails in my commitment because I don't want to fail the Lord Jesus Christ.