

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you as our guest today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Chris Puccini

September 21, 2008

"LOVE COMPLETELY"

John 13:35

"Relationships: a selfless love for God and others"

- It's not always easy to love completely, is it?

Psalm 39:4 "LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered, and that my life is fleeing away." NLT

"None of us want to come to the end of our days with relational regrets."

Relational mountains to climb:

1. The Mountain of Misunderstanding.
2. The Mountain of "Me First".

James 4:1-2 "What causes fights and quarrels, don't they come from your desires that battle within you. You want something, but you don't get it."

"Selfishness is the language of our sinful nature."

3. The Mountain of Mistakes.

- Formulas are good, but God is much more interested in you surrendering your will, so that His life can spring up in you.

Romans 8:5-6 "Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who **trust God's action in them** find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end." The Message

"Climbing the Mountain God's Way to Love More Completely"

1. THE ROPE OF ACCEPTANCE.

- Similarly, we can't climb to new heights safely if we don't connect with a rope of acceptance.

Romans 15:7 "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." NIV

- We demonstrate true Christ-likeness when we accept someone who is unacceptable.

- It starts by recognizing how God has accepted you.

2. GAIN TRACTION WITH LOVING ACTIONS

A. CONSIDERATION

Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” NIV

John 13:1, 5 “It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.”

“After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”

B. COOPERATION

Chemistry: Where the teams work together for common good, and one player just knows what the other player is going to do.

Synergy: The interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects.

Ephesians 4:16 “He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” NLT

C. COMMITMENT

· When we cultivate commitment in our relationships, we climb the mountain.

John 13:35 “By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves.]”

3. TETHERED BY FORGIVENESS

· There’s no greater example of how a heart of forgiveness bounds over relational mountains than in the last hours of Christ’s life on earth.

Luke 23:34a “Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for **they do not know** what they are doing.”

Colossians 3:13. “Get along with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you.”

· You’ll never have to forgive anyone in your life more than Christ has already forgiven you.

1 John 3:16. “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”

If you had “one month to live” ... how would you face your mountains? Who would you need to forgive? Who could you love in a tangible way this week? The Challenge: look for ways to love completely.

“LOVE COMPLETELY”

For personal or small group study

Week of September 21, 2008

We are relational beings. We are created to be in relationship ~ with God and others. When it is all said and done, and our lives near their end, it is the people we loved, and the relationships we had, that will matter the most. **We have to choose each day to love completely at all costs** those whom God has brought into our lives because tomorrow we might not have the choice. **[Watch DVD Session 3]**

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What did you learn about sharing and experiencing love from the DVD? How did the mother’s story of forgiveness, or the short film “Chasing”, speak to you personally and practically about the power of God’s love?
2. Which day’s reading meant the most to you this week? Discuss the **“Make it Last for Life”** section at the end of each day’s readings and make a plan as a group or as an individual to put as many as possible into practice.
3. The **“One Month to Live”** book says ... **“Relationships are the most rewarding thing in life and they are the most painful thing in life.”** Discuss this statement. How have you seen this to be true in your own relationships?
4. Consider what **1 John 3:16 and 4:7-11**, plus the last two paragraphs on page 70 from **“One Month to Live”**, reveal about being loved by God and in return loving others completely. How do these passages define and explain love? Is it fair to say that if we do not accurately understand God’s love for us, then we can’t properly love others?

Discuss how you can put into practice the three suggestions found in the **“Make It Last for Life”** section at the bottom of page 70.

5. Read Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:13. The term “forgive” means to release someone from a debt they cannot pay. How does this affect the way you understand the command to forgive? What prohibits us from forgiving others the way God has forgiven us? How do we forgive from the heart?
6. **The sermon and sermon notes:** What did you gain the most from **“Climbing the Mountain God’s Way”**? **Read Romans 8:5-8** from The Message version. How does this scripture help us understand what it means to love completely?

A LOOK INSIDE ...

If you knew you had one month to live, who would you need to forgive? Who would you need to ask for forgiveness from? Who needs to know that you truly love them?