Sermon Notes

**“Love One Another”**

John 15:1–17

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the one who defines what true love looks like.*

1 John 4:10
10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

***How do we build deep, rich, Christian community/friendships?***

1. Cast down your idol of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Prepare \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Prepare to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Invest in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Pursue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ expressions of love

6. Sunday \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ precedes community

**3 Key Scriptural Rhythms:**

1. Placing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
1 Thessalonians 5:11 “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up”
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
James 5:16 “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Colossians 3:13 “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What insight from the message left the biggest impression on you? Why?
2. What is the biggest challenge you face as it relates to building community and friendships with other Christians? How can others help you overcome these challenges?
3. Which of Jeff’s reflections on building Christian community was the most challenging? The most helpful?
4. What is one thing you can do to grow in your Christian friendships this week?
5. Which of the three Scriptural Rhythms mentioned do you think you are strongest in? How does this contribute to the spiritual health of others?
6. Were there any other principles of Christian community/friendship that you believe should be emphasized but were not in this message?