



May 26 - 6:00pm

We are **so appreciative** of all our volunteers and your heart to serve at St. Albert Alliance Church - and we want to say **THANK YOU!**

All StAAC Volunteers are invited to join us for an evening of food, games, awards and music

RSVP NOW @ staalliance.org
or via the StAAC App

CONNECTING

Strangers Become Neighbours

Love Changes Everything

Pastor Matt Garvin ~ May 7, 2017

Following Jesus means living a life shaped by the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) and **the Great Commandment** (Mark 12:30-31).

Following Jesus also means living a life shaped by the New Commandment.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34-35 NIV

Our Love comes from _____.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1 John 4:19-21 NIV

This is Love...

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NIV

Love is a choice, sometimes despite feelings.

“The desire to love is not itself love. Love is as love does. Love is an act of will - namely, both an intention and an action. Will also implies choice. We do not have to love. We choose to love.”

M. Scott Peck

Being a loving person is _____.

“Call it what you will, genuine love, with all the discipline it requires, is the only path in this life to substantial joy.”

M. Scott Peck

Love produces “Social Capital”.

Social capital is a way that sociologists talk about the relationship connections between people, both in terms of the strength of the relationships and the number of relationships.

The level of social capital amongst any group of people is important at lots of levels. High social capital has been demonstrated to significantly increase health, decrease crime and corruption and increase generosity and reciprocity.

Love produces commitment and sacrifice, which produces Bonding Social Capital.

Bonding Social Capital: is about the strength of our relationships, the mutual care and sacrifice between people. Bonding social capital is important for basic survival.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:12-13 NIV

The strongest form of Bonding Social Capital is _____.

“Unconditional love says, ‘No matter what you do, I am going to pursue the goal of connection with you.’”

Danny Silk

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 and sisters.

1 John 3:16 NIV

Unconditional love is not unconditional _____ of someone's behavior.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Matthew 16:22-23 NIV

Jesus calls us to love the people who are hardest to love, which produces Bridging Social Capital.

You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:43-45a NIV

Bridging Social Capital: is about our willingness to connect with people outside our “normal” circle of relationship. Society needs bridging social capital in order to be more than tribalism.

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the dark, motionless, airless – it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell.”

C.S. Lewis

WHO IS JESUS CALLING YOU TO LOVE?

The shape of real love

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 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. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.”

John 15:9-13 NIV