

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 12 Mar 2023

Sermon Title : Love Does Not Insist

Speaker : Rev Reuben Ng

Text : 1 Corinthians 13:5

INTRODUCTION

We do not know or possess every bit of knowledge in the world. Even though we do possess some knowledge or have access to some information in this world, we may not necessarily have the wisdom to know how to apply that knowledge. Hence, if we can establish that none of us possesses all the information on the earth and none of us is entirely or perfectly wise, then, this sermon's focus on "Love does not insist" will make perfect sense.

1. Love does not insist on its own way (1 Corinthians 13:5)

When someone insists on his/her own ways, it is usually because the person thinks he/she knows better, he/she is wiser, or he/she has more experience. Therefore, others should listen to him/her and he/she should have his/her own way.

When we insist on our own ways:

- ❖ If both parties have the same thinking that each knows better and insist on their own way, there will be a collision, tension and friction, possibly leading to a fracture in the relationship.
- ❖ If one party pushes through and gets what he/she wants to win, it would be wrong.
 - We should not be looking to win by showing we are fearless, better, wiser or stronger so our view gets carried out. Following a God who is love and being called to be a people who love one another is not about who wins. Even with different views, we should come to a place where everyone wins, all are edified, nurtured and learnt something from one another.
- ❖ If we insist on our way and the other party gives in to us, the other party probably gives in because we are a pain to him/her. Even if we were right, and the other party moves on to do things his/her own way and then experiences the consequences of his/her wrong and realizes that we are right, the person will likely not come back to us to admit he/she had been wrong. Our insistence will make that person think that we would surely say, "I told you so!"

We are not totally wise and do not have all the information in the world. Therefore, there will always be something we can learn from others. When we hear a different

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

view, it may be an opportunity to learn from others, to gain a bit more knowledge and be a bit wiser as we can nurture ourselves through reflecting and learning from one another.

God is all knowing and fully wise

- God is perfect in knowledge (Job 37:14-16)
- Only God deserves the word “wise” because He is the only one who truly is wise (Romans 16:27)

Therefore, because God is perfect in knowledge and He alone is wise, God’s ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9)

God does not insist on His ways with us

- God tells us things, He prompts us, guides us and nudges us but He never insists.
- Even when we go in a different direction from His perfect knowledge and wisdom and face the consequences, when we go back to God, He will welcome us and help us resolve the issue for us to move on.

2. Love is not self-serving – (1 Corinthians 13:5)

“Love does not insist” is also translated as “Love is not serve-serving. These two meanings are closely related because when someone insists on his/her own ways, he/she is also self-serving, self-centred and selfish.

- ❖ Self-serving often comes out in small things that we say or do and does not necessarily mean big fights between people.
- ❖ When we focus on ourselves – “What I want”, “What I like”, “What I think I should have”, we will insist on our ways/wants and will not consider others.

We must not insist on what we want and look for our own good but look outside at others. (1 Corinthians 10:24)

Let us be a church where:

- whoever comes to our church will be able to experience that God is love through the way we love people.
- everyone is considerate of others and cares about other’s comfort, desire and wants.
- its people focus on others and not on self.
- people feel welcomed regardless of whether they are new to the church or a regular worshiper.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

CONCLUSION

God is love and God's love does not insist. As God's people called to love one another, let us also not insist on our own ways or look for our own good but look outside to others and be considerate towards one another. May we be transformed to be that glorious church of God that truly loves people genuinely.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Copyright © 2023 by Faith Methodist Church. All rights reserved.
No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted
in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other
electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

A. Review Sermon Application

Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2a. Ask for a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 13:5 aloud slowly.

2b. Consider your interactions with people after hearing this sermon. Count how many situations there had been where you "insisted on your ways".

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

- 3a. What are some negative effects of Christians “insisting on our ways/insisting we are right”?
- 3b. How has being reminded that only God has perfect knowledge and God alone is wise, yet He did not insist on His ways, impacted you?
- 4a. Consider your thought process in conversations or decision-making in situations at home, work/school, small group, church or in the community. Do you:
- (i) want to talk more than listen?
 - (ii) give careful thought to an opinion or proposal that is different from yours?
 - (iii) think you are correct if the opinion of others is different?
 - (iv) desire to promote yourself and protect your interest?
 - (v) think about how your response will show God’s love to others?
- 4b. From your answers to 4a. above, in which situation(s) do you tend to insist on your own way?
- 4c. (i) What is one change you can make to your conversations or decision-making process to better show God’s love to others?
- (ii) How can your group members encourage or help you to achieve 4c(i) above, in the following week(s), till your next meeting?

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action

Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.

5. Share your testimony on how a brother/sister in our church did not look for his/her own good but considered your comfort or need instead.

OR

Give thanks to God for not insisting His ways on us but welcoming us back and helping us to resolve our issues whenever we return to Him after we have strayed away from His perfect direction.

6. Take time to pray for each other to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's prompting if you have been insistent in your interactions with people. Seek the Lord's forgiveness and submit to God's perfect knowledge and wisdom to transform you into the likeness of Christ.

Pray also for our church that we may be loving and kind towards one another, not insisting on our own ways but be considerate of others so God's glory may be shown on earth through the way we love.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. Man of Sorrows – Hillsong <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b48fPuO8GY0>
2. Here I Bow – Bethel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvHi7N8kc8s>
3. Give Us Clean Hands – Chris Tomlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rv55qS7v2-c>

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7