



❖ MESSAGE NOTES

OMNI: OmniBenevolent ~ Week 4

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
His love endures forever. ~ 1 Chronicles 16:34*

~ A.W. TOZER ~

“The whole outlook of mankind might be changed if we could all believe we dwell under a friendly sky and that the God of heaven, although exalted in power and majesty, is eager to be friends with us.”

God is not against you for your sin. God is for you, against your sin.

Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him! In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets. ~ Matthew 7:9-12

~ RICHARD FOSTER ~

“Today the heart of God is an open wound of love. He aches over our distance and preoccupation. He mourns that we do not draw near to Him. He grieves that we have forgotten Him. He weeps over our obsession with muchness and manyness. He longs for our presence.”

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. ~ 1 John 4:7-12

So He told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ~ Luke 15:3-7

My sheep listen to My voice. I know them and they follow Me. ~ John 10:27

❖ DIVE IN! ~ Discussion Questions

1. What was one thing Pastor G said this week that spoke directly to you?
2. Are you inspired by that to make a decision, make a change, or take some action in your life?

◆ READ: *1 Chronicles 16:34 and Psalm 136*

1. In what ways have you experienced the goodness and love of God in your life? Do you believe "His love endures forever?"
2. As part of the enduring love of God, Pastor G is fond of teaching "God is not against you for your sin. God is for you, against your sin." Do you feel that way? Why or why not?

◆ READ: *Matthew 7:9-12, Luke 15:3-7 and John 10:27*

1. Pastor G summarized the Matthew passage by encouraging us to "Realize that God is at least as nice a person as you are." How have you found this to be true in your own life?
2. In the Luke passage, Jesus describes the profound love He has for His followers, (His sheep) and the lengths He will go to to find us when we wander away. He says when we are found again, brought safely back into the fold, all of heaven rejoices! How does that make you feel to be loved that much by God and by the angels and saints of heaven?
3. Some people reject faith because they think of God as a mean sheriff in the sky or an angry hang judge who just wants to punish them for having a good time. How would you use these passages to illustrate to them that Jesus taught instead about a very kind and loving God? Are there other passages of Scripture or experiences from your life that you could point to as further evidence of God's good, kind and loving nature?
4. Some people reject that God is a loving God because of the passages that refer to the wrath and judgment of God. How do you reconcile these kinds of passages with those Scriptures? How can God be both loving and wrathful?

◆ READ: *1 John 4:7-12, John 8:3-11*

1. How can we love one another in the same way that God loves us? Pastor Greg reminded us that "While God loves us right where He finds us, He also loves us too much to leave us there." Greg said we should love people the same way. How can we be "for people and against their sins" without being "against people?"

How can we "love people right where we find them" but also "love them too much to leave them there?"

2. How can we love people the same way Jesus loves us "Neither do I condemn you, now go and sin no more" without being accused of being "intolerant, judgmental or bigoted?" Can you love someone without also loving all of their choices? Why or why not?