

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!
Thank you so much for visiting our website! Here is
an excerpt of my notes
from Pastor A.J.'s sermon

Stop Looking At Me!

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

We pray this Message will bless you the way it blessed us! Please
come back

again next week for more from “LaKesha’s Pen” with another
inspiring

message from our Pastor.

Yours in Christ,

LaKesha Johnson-Lewis

It's time to stop looking at me and look at you!

Characteristics of Love

Society has attached a wrong definition to the word love. Let's face it we all have a messed up idea of what love is. We have allowed other outside sources to influence what we believe love to be. Our perception of love is shaped and molded by the broken love we receive from others. We hear the definition of love written in songs. Many love songs are written from a dysfunctional view of love. Songs like....

“If loving you is wrong I don't wanna be right.”

“Love hurts so good.”

“Your love is driving me crazy.”

“Thin line between love and hate.”

“If you don’t believe I love you just ask my wife.”

“How could you believe me when I said I love you when you know I’ve been a liar all my life.”

These are all titles to real songs. Our relationships have been formed by the things we heard and the things we’ve seen. It’s time to transition from a dysfunctional love to functional love. This functional love starts with a relationship with God.

A Dependent Type of Love

Our relationships are dependent directly on the type of relationship we have with God. You can’t choose who you love but you can choose how you will love them. Jesus stated we are to love the Lord our God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves. (Mark 12:30-01) The love we give is connected directly to what we’ve been around and what is around us. Are you loving others in a way that works? There are some popular sayings about love such as:

Falling in love-(I don’t want to do that because that sounds like it hurts)

Hopelessly in love-(who wants to live a life without hope; a life without expecting good to happen)

Crazy in love-(That type of love will get you incarcerated!)

Depending on your history you may find yourself believing that chaos and love go hand in hand. You don’t believe love can exist outside of chaos. Due to the dysfunctional love we receive we often transmit that love into our relationship with God. We treat God as our spiritual handyman. We only call on Him when we need Him to fix our messes. We were created in God’s image and likeness. (Genesis 1:27) We all have a desire to love and to be loved. We were created for this very purpose. God is love! (1 John 4:7-21) He created us in love and we have a desire to love Him back.

Frustrated Love

Many people set out in life trying to obtain what society deems as important in order to buy acceptance and love. You can have it all but if you lack true love you have nothing. If you have it all and don't give love you have no value. God loves you unconditionally but we try to force God into a conditional type of love. He knew the "break-up" would occur. (Genesis 3). Sin is not the problem! Jesus took care of that! God's love is lavish. Meaning He has an endless supply of love that He wants to pour out on you. He wants you to experience this love daily. Why do you do what you do? When you do something out of love and the person doesn't respond the way you want them to how do you react? Is it satisfaction enough just to do it because of love? Our only mission in life is to do like Jesus and do what is pleasing to our Heavenly Father. (John 5:19-20) If God is pleased that is all that matters. Do you trust Him enough when things aren't going your way? Do you still believe He loves you when you can't feel Him around you?

Love a work in progress!

Though we are created in the image of God and God is love, our love must be worked out. Since we are flawed God uses relationships to help us develop the love that He has placed inside of us. He uses the experiences, His Word, His love, and others to evolve our love. Through patience (time) and kindness (to think it through). When we conform to what love is, love works! Love is about being there for each other and says "I am willing to treat you like I love!"