 **THE TRUTH WE ARE MISSING**

 By

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Do you know your love language? How about God’s love language? In Gary Chapman’s book, *The Five Love Languages – The Secret to Love That Lasts* said, Chapman says that we connect with people better if we can speak their primary love language.

Wait! Really! This got me thinking! Does this also translate to our love for God? According to Chapman, our emotional love language may be as different as speaking a foreign language. If our spouse’s emotional love language is spending quality time together, we stand a greater chance in touching their love nerve if we do just that. In the book mentioned above, Chapman listed five primary love languages, but there are seven in total which are: Words of Affirmation, Receiving Gifts, Acts of Service, Physical Touch, (e.g., hugs), Quality Time, Communication, and last but not the least, Expression of Affection and Love.

Chapman goes on to ask, “How can we speak each other’s love language when we are full of hurt, anger, and resentment over past failures?” Answering this question begins with self-reflection. Knowing my own love language and the love language of the people around me

(my spouse, friend, or child for instance) helps us to deepen our relationships with them.

If we all agree with Chapman that love has a primary language, then we all have a divine duty to discover the love language not only of ourselves but also of God. The good news is that God has shown us what love is from the Bible. John 3:16 reads, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” God gave His Son sacrificially to save the world and redeem humanity from sin unconditionally. This God’s love is described as Agape love: love that is unconditional.

 Jesus also showed us his primary love language saying in John 14:15, which reads “Jesus said, if you love me, you will obey what I command.” What Jesus commands is to love God, with all our heart, soul and mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

In other words, to love God is to surrender who we are to God, and to love our neighbors is simply to do for our neighbors what we would want them to do for us. The apostle Paul in his writings to the church of Corinth explains love as follows: “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” (1st Corinthians 13: 4 – 7)

Though we each have our primary love language that may be different from those around us, we all have something in common: each one of us is hungry for love. May we therefore invest in love, to discover the truth we are missing in our relationships, because love is God and God is love. God bless you. Amen!

**PREACHING PLAN FOR AUGUST**

August 7th

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11: 1 - 3, 8 - 16 Theme: Faith

**Special Note: Communion Sunday**

August 14th

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:3, Malachi 3:2. Theme: Wrestling with Old Testament Verses.

**Special Note: Preacher: Rev. Jim Farrer**

August 21st

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25: 31 - 45. Theme: Acts of Service

**Special Note: Outdoor Service at Pine Springs**

August 28th

Scripture Reading: Luke 10: 39 - 42. Theme: Quality Time

**Special Note: A reflection on the book, “The Emotionally Healthy Discipleship and the Five Love Languages – The Secret to Love That Lasts” by Gary Chapman**

**Enjoy this forthcoming month of August. It is a month of Rest in the life of our church. Ultimately, we find true rest by trusting in God and recognizing the presence and peace of God in our lives. While we take our responsibilities seriously, we also recognize that we can relax our grip on our work and careers, our families and our ministry and give them over to God in faith.**

**We can take time each day to tune out the distractions, put away our anxieties and restlessness, and reflect in gratitude on the wonder of God’s love and faithfulness. So, stop and take a breath in this month of August. Our Sabbath Month!**

**No committee meetings. Rest, Relax and Re-energize yourself to love God and serve one another more deeply as God’s hands and feet and voice.**