

Sermon Draft

Text: John 14:15–21

Sermon: “Live in the Lord”

It seems that not a day goes by when one is not confronted with a food or drink that has been deemed harmful. It also seems that not a day goes by when one is not confronted with a food or a drink that at one time was considered harmful but now is considered beneficial, or the opposite way around.

For instance coffee, is it good for you or bad for you? I think it depends on who is doing the study and who is paying for it. At one time, coffee was considered bad for us, but now reports say that maybe it's good for us, people are not sure. The answer to all of this may lie in the word *moderation*. Most things may have some benefit, but even too much of a good thing may cause some harm. Sadly, like the young man who died from too much caffeine this past week.

This is not so with our triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We cannot get enough of the grace, love, and forgiveness of our God. Jesus did not leave his disciples as orphans. Not only did he promise his presence to be with them always, he also promised them the presence of the Holy Spirit. That same promise is for us as well. It may seem like that is a lot of God, but to truly live we need to have every bit of him in our lives each day. We can never get enough of a good God. In our text for today Jesus said, ***“Because I live, you also will live”*** (v 19).

Today we want to explore what it means to live, to live in the love of the Lord. To live our lives to the fullest means that we live our lives always in the love of the Lord.

The first step of living in the love of the Lord is to examine our lives and realize that we in no way deserve to be God’s children.

Because of sin in our lives we do not deserve God's love or his care or thought of us at all. Yet, in his great love and mercy for us he called us, chose us, and accepted us to be his very own through the death and resurrection of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Romans 6:23 says, ***"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."***

We live in the love of the Lord humbly, confessing our sins and basking in the joy of sins forgiven. Just like every week we began our service this morning with the "Confession and Absolution." We do this not to make ourselves feel sad but to remind ourselves yes, of our sins but more so the forgiveness we have in Christ. It is a gift of God out of His love.

And so to live in the love of the Lord means to venerate, lift up, and extol the great name of our powerful God.

God through Jesus has done great things for us, still more than we can even yet imagine. So, we offer to him our worship and our praise. We come into his presence with singing, with prayer and with gladness in our hearts, we rejoice in the Lord as Psalm 100 puts it. **Let's take out our hymnals and together speak the words of Psalm 100.**

How good it is to worship and praise our wonderful God.

And to live in the love of the Lord is to inform others of God's love. We have the Word of the Gospel. We have the truth, and the world in which we live needs to hear it. All people need to be convicted of their sins. They, too, need to hear the Good News of sins forgiven, of life forever in heaven through the blood of Jesus Christ. How will they hear unless we inform them?

1 Peter 3:15 says, ***“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”***

Maybe this week we can each have the goal to live in the love of the Lord and pick out someone to inform about the joy that is inside of us because of your Savior Jesus Christ. Do you have someone in mind?

Finally, to live in the love of the Lord means to love others as Jesus Christ first loved us. John 15:12–13 says, ***“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”***

Elsewhere Scripture says, ***“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve”*** (Matthew 20:28). The greatest acts of love involve sacrifice and service. The greatest acts of love are not always fun and are not always met with great thanks.

But when we love someone, when we serve and sacrifice for someone in the name of Jesus, fun and thanks do not matter. What matters is a "well done" from our Father in heaven. Before the sun goes down today, love someone by serving them even if they do not even notice what you did for them.

Acts 17 reminds us that in Jesus we live and move and have our being. Because Jesus lives, we also live. Live each day in the love of the Lord.

Amen