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***“Love Matters Most”***

**Matthew 22:37-40**

**Pastor Kevin Snyder**

**Coast Hills Community Church**

**September 27, 2015**

**Matthew 22:37-40**

37 Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

**1. This is what love is… it is Jesus! (verse 9-10)**

**1 John 4:8-12**

8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us

**This is not only the kind of love that *God* *does*, but it is the kind of love that *God IS*!**

**2. Do exactly what you see God doing**.

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. 2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us[a] and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

**1 Corinthians 16:4** “Do everything in love”

**Matthew 5**

43 “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. 46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. 48 But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

**3. God’s love is revealed through community, particularly the church.**

**1 John 4:11-12 11**Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 “No one has ever seen God. *But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.”*

**Questions to ponder and Action Steps to take**

**Discover**

1. What have I discovered new about who Jesus is today?
2. Have I surrendered and received this love of God? What do I need to do to receive this love for myself?

**Follow**

1. What one thing I can do to imitate God’s love this week, in my family, in my work, in my leisure and in my personal quiet time?
2. Who is the one person I need to love better? Start with praying for that person, and see where that leads you.