

In the message this week we examined the difference between our culture's view of love and God's view of love. Our understanding of love should affect how we give and receive love, therefore it is an important subject to define and discuss. Read through the sermon outline below and talk about what all this means for your life.

Sermon Outline:	Suggested Discussion Questions:
<p>Text – Colossians 3:12-14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to discuss the subject of love we need to have a shared definition of love. • Greek words for love: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eros – physical / emotional ○ Storge – family love ○ Phileo – brotherly / friend ○ Agape – self-sacrificing • When the scriptures speak about the love that God has for us it is almost always the word agape. • Our culture tells us that we must FALL IN LOVE (out of our control), but Paul tells us that we can PUT ON LOVE (in our control). • We can <u>CHOOSE</u> to love. • “Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,” • We can <u>CHOOSE</u> to love others because God <u>CHOSE</u> to love us. • It is HIS love that we are commanded to PUT ON. • We are to dress ourselves in his: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compassion ○ Kindness ○ Humility ○ Meekness ○ Patience ○ Long-suffering ○ Forgiveness ○ OVER ALL THESE THINGS ... LOVE <p><u>Call to action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We must decide each and every day to PUT ON His love. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your favourite LOVE STORY? (movie, book, personal story ... share with the group) • Best valentine's day / Worst valentine's day • In your own words ... what is love? • Describe a time when you experienced or witnessed AGAPE love. • Why does the idea of FALLING IN LOVE seem so much more appealing than the idea of CHOOSING TO LOVE? • READ - Romans 5:6-8 • Does it help you to know that God has chosen to love you in this way? • Read the list of qualities in the outline below that we are told to PUT ON. Which one comes easiest? Which is hardest for you? • How does BEING LOVED by God affect our ability to love others? <p>Additional Reading / Devotions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agape – one sided love (Luke 6:35) • Practical love (Romans 12:9-21) • A debt of love (Romans 13:8-10) • Love is ... (1 Cor. 13:4-8) • Why we love? (1 John 4:18-19)