

THE GOOD NEWS

May 28, 2017

BREAD OF LIFE



'HOW TO LOVE A BLOODSUCKER'

Message by Pastor Isaac Friedel
Sunday, May 21, 2017

Romans 12:9-18 (TLB)

⁹Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good.

¹⁰Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹²Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always. ¹³When God's children are in need, you be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night. ¹⁴If someone mistreats you because you are a Christian, don't curse him; pray that God will bless him. ¹⁵When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow. ¹⁶Work happily together. Don't try to act big. Don't try to get into the good graces of important people, but enjoy the company of ordinary folks. And don't think you know it all!

¹⁷Never pay back evil for evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honest clear through.

¹⁸Don't quarrel with anyone. Be at peace with everyone, just as much as possible.

There are a lot of bloodsuckers in this world...living, breathing, walking, talking bloodsuckers that suck the energy, joy, happiness and peace out of you. There are bloodsuckers on social media, work, restaurants and even at church.

There are different types of people that may or may not suck the life out of you...

- People who approach every day with a heightened sense of entitlement but have a very low sense of gratitude.
- People who always make withdrawals but rarely make any deposits.
- People who always demand their rights but forsake their responsibilities.
- People who don't follow through on their commitments and leave you and everyone else high and dry.
- People who think whatever they are dealing with is the most important thing in the world.
- People who talk so much and listen so little.
- People who constantly complain how unfair life is and how bad their current situation is, but there are billions of people who would love to trade places with them.

God has called us to express love to everyone, but how can I love someone who is sucking the life, energy, calling and purpose out of my life?

Before you can really love a bloodsucker you've got to realize:

1. I am the #1 bloodsucker in my life. I literally sucked the blood out of the Son of God. Romans 5:8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Christ died for you, Christ died for me...He is your Savior. Romans 7:23-25 but there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature, that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. In my mind I want to be God's willing servant, but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin. So you see how it is: my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in! Who will free me from my slavery to this deadly lower nature? Thank God! It has been done by Jesus Christ our Lord. He has set me free. 1 Timothy 1:15 How true it is, and how I long that everyone should know it, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—and I was the greatest of them all. People criticize other people and find faults with others, but the word of God tells us in Matthew 7:1-5 "Don't criticize, and then you won't be criticized. ²For others will treat you as you treat them. ³And why worry about a speck in the eye of a brother when you have a board in your own? ⁴Should you say, 'Friend, let me help you get that speck out of your eye,' when you can't even see because of the board in your own? ⁵Hypocrite! First get rid of the board. Then you can see to help your brother. Put the magnifying glass down that is looking for the flaws in others and look in

the mirror at yourself...
that's where it starts.

Psalm 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test my thoughts. Ask the Lord to show you what areas in your life that isn't honoring to God and ask Him to help you change.

2. Define your own property lines. Don't build barriers to keep people away, but have boundaries to protect the treasure that is within you. You have love inside you that God wants you to give to the world, but you need to establish healthy boundaries. Boundaries are biblical. *Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful... You are not called to sit in the counsel of the ungodly. Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart more than anything else, because the source of your life flows from it. Protect your purity, protect your integrity – guard your heart. You can love somebody without giving them unlimited access to you. You have to set Godly boundaries with people you love.*

3. You have to stay full of the presence of God or you won't have anything to give anyone else. When you stay full of the presence of God, you can give love and you won't need anything back.

Jeremiah 2:13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. Too often we're busy trying to help others, but we're not being filled in the presence of God. Daily

surrender to God and ask the Lord to fill you up with His presence. God is the only one who can fill you.

4. Don't look for people to pay you back, because your reward comes from God. *John 13:3-5 Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come from God and was going to God. ⁴So he rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. ⁵Then he poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. Jesus washed the feet of Judas who was soon to betray Him...He knew His reward came from above.*

You are trying to get love and appreciation from people, but your reward comes from God. Jesus is enough to restore your brokenness – and in His presence is fullness of joy!



Song List from May 21th

"Mighty Warrior", Elevation Worship
"Last Word", Elevation Worship
"Yahweh", Elevation Worship
"Stand By Me", Ben E. King
"I Exalt Thee", Jesus Culture



Staying Connected...

The Shore Christian App is now available and provides video and audio sermons from Lead Pastor Isaac Friedel. The app also gives you an interactive way to get involved at Shore Christian Church throughout the week.

Go to ShoreChristian.org/app/ and click on the link of your preference to install on your mobile device



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The Jersey Shore Dream Center

House of Independents
572 Cookman Avenue
Asbury Park, NJ 07712
(732) 455-5355

**10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
Services with Lead Pastor
Isaac Friedel**

**7:00 p.m. – 1st Tuesday
Midweek Service with
Pastor Isaac**

**7:30 p.m. Thursday Night
Bible Study, with Pastor
Joseph at:**

**Tabernacle of Glory Church
1710 Columbus Avenue
Neptune, NJ 07753**

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