

**Speaker:** Associate Pastor Richard Yun  
**Title:** "Loving Losers, Winners, and Enemies"  
**Text:** Romans 5:6-8; 1 John 4:18-19; 1 Peter 4:8

#### **Introduction:**

- **Unlovely things must be deeply loved before they become loveable.**
- Paul wrote in Romans 5:6: *"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly...."*  
and in verse 8, *"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
- In 1 John 4:19 John says, *"We love Him because He first loved us.."*
- In 1 Peter 4:8, Peter says, *"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."*

#### **What is Agape love?**

- Peter uses the word agape for love.
- Agape love is the highest form of love; it's a not an emotional response, but a volitional one. It is **a choice to love**, and the emotion comes after that decision.
- Often, agape has been described as unconditional love –love that is not earned.
- Agape actually **pursues the object of its love**. It is "loving even in the face of resistance", even in the face of behaviour where another emotion might be more expected.
- Agape is **unprovoked love**. When we seek to understand unprovoked love, we look for the explanation not in the object of love, but **in the one who is loving**.
- **God, the Father is an agape lover**. God is a lover who loves what he loves not based on the loveliness of the object, but on the quality within him.

#### **Three Types of People need Agape Love**

1. The losers ("the least of these")
2. The winners ("the most of these")
3. The enemies ("the worst of these")

#### **I. You Need Agape for the Least of These**

- The least of these are the people you're most likely not to notice, or if you notice them, you're tempted to avoid them.
- They drain you. There's no gain in loving these, and there's no loss in not loving them.
- We need to overcome this disdain, disgust, and weariness with the presence of the least of these, the losers of the world.

## II. You Need Agape for the Most of These

- If we don't have agape love, we aren't going to get very far with the most of these, the winners. The most of these is a person who does what you do and just does it better.
- What the Spirit of God has to do with the most of these is give you freedom from your sense of inferiority and insecurity so that you become their biggest fan.

-Illustration: Saul, David and Jonathan. Jonathan becomes David's biggest champion because he saw David's cause as God's cause.

- God wants to convert your feelings of animosity or resentment or intimidation into enormous favour toward that person.

## III. You Need Agape for the Worst of These

- Agape is supremely needed with your enemy, the worst of these.
- You have cause to despise them. They have hurt you. They have betrayed you. They've taken something precious from you. They've exploited you.
- You cannot love your enemy unless God does something in you and gives you unprovoked love for that person when they've provoked everything but love.

### Conclusion

- The opposite of love is not hate but fear. 1 John 4:18 says:  
*"... There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."*
- Fear will block the love of God infusing you and coming out of you.
- Yet the reality is: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
- *"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
- As you experience the fearlessness of being loved by a holy God, you will be able to do what is otherwise humanly impossible: love the least of these, love the most of these, and love the worst of these.