

The Revd Stan Evans

Camino de las Cuestas 5c | 35572 Tias

Email: revdstanevans@gmail.com | T: +34 928 514241



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

LIVING ROOM SERVICE #5 - SERMON

'For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law'

There are different kinds of love. But, sometimes, we are afraid to, we are threatened by, exploring what we mean by love.

In his book 'God has a dream' Desmond Tutu, the Rainbow Archbishop, reminds us that as part of the same family of God, it can help us to begin loving one another as God loves us, and letting go of the prejudices that divide us.

God has an unending love affair with us.

It is a never ending love, love that cannot be stopped and is plentiful and true – no matter what we do and no matter how many times we offend Him. He continues to lavish us with His love - not for a few moments – for a lifetime and into eternity. How good is that to know that we are loved and God believes in us and lavishes us with the extravagant abundance of his love.

Perhaps we feel too embarrassed to explore what we mean by love because, in some Victorian way, we think this involves private emotions and feelings that should not be discussed in public or in polite company.

Perhaps we return to teenage feelings of blushing and being unable to find appropriate mature language to discuss what love truly means beyond our own emotions.

Perhaps because of past experiences, we can confuse attention with affection, affection with love, and so we go on doing things to gain attention that compensates for a lack of affection and for not being fulfilled in our needs to be loved. Sometimes that is so real.

Few of us grow up being taught how to think about love and what it is, in its broader, theological, spiritual and psychological meanings.

What does the Apostle Paul mean by love in his teaching?

Saint Paul talks about love in all its fullness.

He refers to unearned or unmerited love, when he talks about honouring one another and loving without counting the cost. He talks about mutual love for one another that is so much more than affection.

He gives a balanced and considered approach to what love is.

And yet, surprisingly there is not one word from him about marriage, sex or gender.

Rather than offering mere words that label love, Saint Paul provides practical examples of how love is expressed, how it is not just a feeling but is only genuine when it is put into action.

The Revd Stan Evans

Camino de las Cuestas 5c | 35572 Tias

Email: revdstanevans@gmail.com | T: +34 928 514241



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

He tells me that love is mutual, shows honour, is the best way to serve God. We must rejoice, be patient, pray for others, give to others, welcome strangers, bless those we see as threats and as enemies and never to curse them.

We are to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

We are to live in peace with all, and let God take care, in God's own way, of those who do us wrong. We are to feed the hungry, give something to drink to those who thirst, we are to respond to evil with good.

And why? Why should I follow this path?

Because the God of love has lavished his love upon us.

God's love and care is for all time; he gives us life and life in abundance;

His love is more than a mother could shower on her child; we are oblivious to His love and yet he continues to bombard us with his affection and care.

When we open our hearts to God's love, we are transformed; we are remade – regenerated as the children of God. It is God through the power of His spirit who affirms us. We are His people when we acknowledge and receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Not one of us are worthy – we cannot earn it – God just loves us.

We would not be God's children if he were not already deeply in love with us.

How amazing is that! God has a love affair with us for all time!

What a different Church we would be if only we grasped how lavish and true and unceasing His love is for us – expressed in all that Jesus has done for us – so that we can truly say that we are God's children.

Then we can truly fulfil God's dream for His world; Tutu writes: For nothing can separate us from His love. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no oppression that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned to love; no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

As God has poured out his love upon the cross for us through Jesus, then we should let his abundant love spill over onto those around us so that they too will realize just how much he has sacrificially loved them – and by so doing we truly can say that we have loved our neighbours as ourselves in His name.

Amen