

***It All Hangs on This Love***

To say that ALL the law and the prophets “hang” on this love, is an outrageous statement. We could do no better this morning than to sit in silence and think about what all that means for the next 15 minutes! ...

To say that all the law and the prophets hang on this love, is to say that all the church’s efforts to achieve and to demonstrate righteousness depend entirely on the church’s efforts to love and the church’s experience of love.

To say that all the law and the prophets hang on this love, is to say that all the church’s efforts to achieve justice in life, in this world, depend entirely on the church’s efforts to give and to receive this love.

To say that all the law and the prophets hang on this love, is to say that all the church’s desire and intention to participate in the Kingdom of God here on earth depend on the church’s efforts to know and to share this love.

To say that all the law and the prophets hang on this love, is to say that all the church’s prayers and work for peace on earth depend on the church’s efforts to receive this love and to pass it on to others.

To say that all the law and the prophets hang on this love, is to say that all of our own, individual efforts to be good and faithful disciples of Christ depend upon our own love for God and for others.

To say that all the law and the prophets hang on this love, is to say that all the church’s programs to renew and update its facilities depend upon the love that its members have for God and for others.

To say that all the law and the prophets hang on this love, is to say that is to say that all the church’s programs to increase its membership and participation in worship and in outreach depend upon the love that the church has and gives away.

To say that all the law and the prophets hang on this love, is to say that no matter what we do to move toward righteousness, justice, peace, the Kingdom of God, or discipleship, no matter what we do to put in place an attractive, useful and welcoming facility, no matter what we do to increase the membership of this church, it will surely fail if there is no love here.

In his “love chapter,” I Corinthians 13, the apostle Paul says as much himself, when he says that, without love, all our effective communication, all our insight and discernment, all our knowledge, and all our personal sacrifices mean absolutely nothing!

Indeed, Paul goes on in that chapter to say that all else that we create, accomplish, build or establish in this life will fade away into nothing, except for love: the love we receive, and the love we share. They say you can’t take it with you -- meaning all your stuff, when you die! But you can and do take love with you. Love never ends.

Now, I know some things, but I do not know everything that happens to cause some people to stop loving, to give up on love. And yet I have seen in my 35 years as an elder and a pastor, otherwise distinguished members of the church just give up on love, come to scorn love, and it breaks my heart! Some people would just rather be right, than to be loving, I guess!

So, when we go to this Table this morning, let us go with a renewed desire and a sincere intention to let the love of God have its way with us, and to never give up on love.