

Lent 2021

A CHANGE OF
HEART
THE VACCINE FOR
ARROGANCE
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2021 LENT DEVOTIONAL

WEEK 3

Salem Bible Church

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Dr. Joseph L. Williams, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jasper W. Williams, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Monday, March 8, 2021

Arrogant Love

Scripture Reading:

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Matthew 22:36-40 KJV)

Devotional Reading

When we think of love, seldom do we consider love as “arrogant.” True love should be patient, kind, not boastful; however, love that comes from the wrong place can be damaging and divisive.

How can love be arrogant? Arrogant love manifests when a person uses their love to gain and not to give. Love should be a gift that is issued for no other reason besides it’s what is commanded of us; however, there are many relationships that can be full of arrogant love!

Arrogant love is when a person loves you for what you have and not who you are. Arrogant love is when a person loves you for something they can get in return. Arrogant love is always attached to an agenda. When arrogant love exists, it places parameters on the relationship. It limits the experience, and it blunts the growth that could have occurred.

When Christ speaks of love, it’s never from a perspective of having an agenda or something to be gained but rather it’s who we are; therefore, it is what we do! Christ said the love of others is just as important as the love of God (Matthew 22:36-40).

Reflection

Have you ever been guilty of arrogant love? Have there been times when your love for a person was not pure? Has your love for someone ever been based upon what they did or did not do for you? If we desire to be like Christ, we must be certain our understanding of love is accurate, pure, and clear. Love should never be about gaining for self but always giving to others.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

The Arrogant Lover

Scripture Reading:

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8 KJV)

Devotional Reading

The arrogant lover is the selfish lover. This is the person who is always about themselves. This is the person that is self-centered and never thinks about the feelings or needs of the other person. The arrogant lover is the toxic person that is expecting a slave and not a partner.

It can be difficult to be in relationships with the selfish lover. Often times the relationship doesn't start with the person exhibiting these characteristics; however, over time one can see them manifest. The arrogant lover exhibits certain traits that are consistent with this subject matter. They are as follows:

Never accepting fault: The arrogant lover never accepts what they did to present negativity within the relationship. The arrogant lover is never willing to see how their actions are flawed but most times their focus is on the other person and not themselves.

Shifting blame: The arrogant lover always shifts blame away from themselves to other people. Their self-centered nature causes them

to not see their own short comings. Because of this, they are not able to change and grow.

Stubbornness and unmovable: The arrogant lover never change and always desires to remain who they are. The arrogant lover has to engage with a person who is willing to deal with their shortcomings and flaws.

Any person who is not willing to see their own faults is a person who will be toxic for any person in any relationship. It's important to address these issues before it's too late.

Reflection

Have you ever been with an arrogant lover? If so, what characteristic did you see in them that were “red flags?” How did you address the issues? Did the person change? It's important that we take the time to see these issues in others before it's too late. Relationships should be fun, exciting and promote growth for everyone involved. When we understand love and what it is, it can be the basis for successful relationships.

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

The Arrogant Relationship

Scripture Reading:

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

(Genesis 2:24 KJV)

Devotional Reading

Marriage in the Bible was an institution created by God. God made man and woman for one another. The two were made to enjoy the creations of God as well as “to be fruitful and multiply.”

The Lord God commanded the man and the woman to leave their parents and to cleave to one another. The union of marriage is when two people can become one entity! This is the foundation of the understanding of marriage; however, people continue to exist within marriage and relationships as two separate entities with two separate agendas.

The arrogant relationship is the relationship that doesn't understand its purpose. The purpose of relationships is to lead to marriage. When a union between a man and a woman exist, it is the direct manifestation of God's wants and desires.

When the man and woman are in a union, fruit must follow! The fruit of a relationship should be the positive things that come forth from it. Fruit from a relationship should be children, love, positive influence and making impact in God's kingdom collectively.

When a union is fruitless, the love is arrogant! The purpose of a relationship between a man and a woman is to bear fruit. The point of love within a relationship is to perpetuate God's commandment within the perfect union reserved for the man and the woman.

Reflection--What “fruit” is your relationship bearing?

Thursday, March 11, 2021

The Arrogant X

Scripture Reading:

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:31-32 KJV)

Devotional Reading

This week, we have examined many different views of arrogance and how it impacts relationships; however, one that we have not examined is the Arrogant X. What does this mean and what are the actions of the Arrogant X?

The Arrogant X is the person who selfishly remains close to the person they formally loved or were involved with. Most arrogant lovers become Arrogant X's. The same actions that plagued them while in the relationship are the same actions that plague them after the relationship ends.

The Arrogant X is the person who never leaves or let's go. The Arrogant X is the person who always holds on and does what they can to keep points of entry to your heart and soul forever present. The Arrogant X never wants you to "move on" or be happy without them. They are more concerned with their thoughts than your well-being.

The Arrogant X will do things to keep you thinking about them. They will text you, call you and do whatever they can to message you when possible. These text messages are designed in order that you may constantly think about them and what you once shared. These actions are selfish although they appear to be about you, they are not.

The Arrogant X is just as toxic away from the relationship as they were within it. It's important that these actions are identified and eliminated. No person would stop anyone from living their lives or moving on especially if its what's best for them. If a person really loves you, sometimes they have to be willing to let you go and not keep you close!

Reflection

Have you ever known an Arrogant X? Have you ever been the Arrogant X?

Friday, March 12, 2021

Arrogant Dating

Scripture Reading:

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:4 ESV)

Devotional Reading

Arrogance manifest when any person is selfish and not self-less. The arrogant person is always looking inward and concerned about what pleases them instead of outward and how others are impacted by their actions. Arrogance manifest in marriages, relationships and even in the process of dating. Many people who are “single” date with a spirit of arrogance.

Arrogance in dating can take many shapes. For one, there is the person who has “options.” This is the person who can date many people for whatever the reason. Perhaps they are of “high value” and this allows them options that others may not have.

Often times this person will date with no desire to slow down or settle down. This person will lean on others not concerned about their feelings wants or desires. This person can “date” all while causing pain and leading others down a road of pain and time wasted.

Arrogant dating consumes time and energy. Its topical and remains on the surface. These types of situations pass time which ultimately waste time. Arrogant dating doesn’t move a relationship to the next level. Arrogant dating keeps people moving but not going anywhere.

We live in a world whereby most of the dating that takes place is consistent with this type mentioned above. This isn't of God and it can damage those who are unaware of it when it comes. The key to not being a victim of this, is to ensure that your relationship is always growing and both parties want the same things!

Reflection

Have you ever been an arrogant dater? Have you ever dated someone who wasted your time? How did it make you feel?