

Text: Mark 10:13-16

Title: "Touch"

Introduction: Anyone here ever been to an airport? What do people do when they go to an airport? Right! They fly in or fly out. And, if anyone they love is with them or picking them up, what is the first thing that happens? Right! I'm not sure more handshaking, hugging and kissing goes on in any other place... People say "Good-bye" and "Hello" with heartfelt emotion and they SHOW IT!

This morning we continue with our series on Communicating Love called, "Talking Your Language". It's important for us as followers of Christ to be able to communicate with others how we feel about them. Jesus taught us how to Love for a reason ... He wanted us to do it!

Over the past few weeks we have been using Dr. Gary Chapman's book, *The Five Love Languages* to help us have a better understanding of how to communicate love to the people around us. Dr. Chapman's argument is that there are FIVE basic Love Languages and each human being has some form of ONE of those Five Languages as their PRIMARY LOVE LANGUAGE.

Did you know that our Scripture says that we (you and I) are created in God's image?!? Do you know what that means? That means God has Love Languages too! One of God's Primary Love Languages = "Words of Affirmation"! That's why we get together on Sunday mornings ... sing praises, pray and read God's Word as ways to say, "Hey God, You're #1 With Me!" It's our chance to tell God that we love Him.

So, God created us to love and be loved. If that doesn't happen ... or if we don't know that we are being loved, we're missing something at the core of who we are! In order to love others the way they need to be loved, we have to make deposits in their LOVE BANK in THEIR CURRENCY ... Their Love Language! This stuff is important!

Again, a quick review:

The FIRST LOVE LANGUAGE we learned about was "*Words of Affirmation*". For some people a compliment or words of encouragement let that person know in no uncertain terms that they are loved. If a person you love and care about receives love through this language; START COMPLEMENTING THEM!

The SECOND LOVE LANGUAGE we learned about was "*Quality Time*". For some people the only thing that says "I Love You" so they can hear it is a person setting aside special time where that person gets your undivided attention. If a person you love has this for a love language; grab your calendar and start setting dates!

The THIRD LOVE LANGUAGE was "*Receiving Gifts*". Some people hear "I Love You" much more clearly if there is something attached to it that let's that person know you were thinking about them even when they weren't around. If the person you care about has this Love Language; 1<sup>st</sup>, it's an easy language to learn, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, you don't have to spend a lot to speak this one clearly.

The FOURTH LOVE LANGUAGE is "*Acts of Service*". For some people "I Love You" can be said in many ways, but unless you SHOW them with some action, there is not deposit. If the one you love has this love language, don't be afraid of "dishpan" hands!

Catch all previous messages in this series (with notes) on our website:

[www.bmzchurch.org](http://www.bmzchurch.org) ...

Well, that brings us to our FIFTH and Final LOVE LANGUAGE.

You know, Jesus showed us how to love the people around us in so many ways ... we can learn all of the Love Languages from Jesus Himself. Listen as Jesus shows the people in Israel another way to love... THE FIFTH LOVE LANGUAGE:

### READ MARK 10:13-16 NOW AND PRAY!

- I. What Would Jesus Do?
  - A. It was very common for the Jewish people to bring their children to a Rabbi and have that Rabbi bless their children. In other words, they were bringing their children to God through a Godly man.
  - B. So, these people were bringing their children (infants up to pre-teen) to Jesus for a touch and a blessing.
  - C. The Disciples, for some reason, thought that this was taking up their master's time and energy that Jesus needed for something more important (than children).
    1. Those poor Disciples. They already forgot what Jesus taught them in Chapter 9 ... and we're only in Chapter 10! Mark 9:36-37 says this:
 

<sup>36</sup> Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes my Father who sent me."<sup>1</sup>
    2. It's like those Disciples have to hear things more than once to understand it! (Know anyone like that?)
  - D. It says that Jesus was "very displeased" with His Disciples, but that's saying it mildly.
    1. Jesus was mad! Mad enough to tell the Disciples off in front of the parents and the kids!
    2. "Let the children come to me. Don't you dare stop them!"
    3. Why were the children so important to Jesus?
  - E. The children were better examples of what Jesus said would be part of the Kingdom of God than the adults!
    1. Adults get set in their ways ... they don't like change ... they want proof ... and they don't trust anybody!
    2. Children, on the other hand, are humble, dependent, receptive and they accept themselves and where they are in life!
    3. In other words, children are coachable!
    4. God wants people who are coachable! When we approach God, it's not as a "know-it-all"!
    5. We need to come to Jesus in awe (faith) and willing to learn... or we will not see God's Kingdom!

---

<sup>1</sup>Holy Bible: New Living Translation. 1997 (Mk 9:35). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.

- F. Okay, back to the 'LOVE LANGUAGE' Stuff. What did the parents bring their children for?
  - 1. A Blessing and...
  - 2. A Touch!
  - 3. It says, "Then he (Jesus) took the children into his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them."
- G. We know through research that children who are held, hugged and kissed are healthier emotionally than children who are left without physical touch for longer periods of time.
- H. Physical Touch is the FIFTH LOVE LANGUAGE and there are many people that have this as their Primary Love Language!
  - 1. Physical touch is very powerful in communicating love to our spouse.
  - 2. Holding hands and kissing and hugging and physical intimacy are all ways of communicating love to one's spouse.
  - 3. For those who have this as their Primary Love Language, doing without Physical Touch is like leaving them in a desert without water! They dry up Fast!

## II. You're Not Married to Your Father/Mother!

- A. For many, to find out that the one they love has Physical Touch as their Primary Love Language is kind of a hard blow.
- B. When it comes to learning how to show love to others, most of us learned what we know from our parents and we think or say things like:
  - 1. "My parents never held hands in public, so we don't have to either!" or
  - 2. "My Dad wouldn't be caught dead kissing my Mom in front of us kids!" or
  - 3. "My parents slept in separate beds, so what's the problem?"
- C. Here's the problem: You are not married to either of your parents.
  - 1. The person you married is not going to want to duplicate what you saw in your home!
  - 2. The person you married has his/her own love language and needs to be loved in that way...
  - 3. I've said this before ... You might say, "She wants me to hold her hand or rub her feet, but that's just not me!"
    - a. Did you say, "For better or for worse?"
    - b. Good! "It's you now!"
    - c. If you're married, it's not about you anymore ... and it certainly is not about your parents!
- D. It is vital for our marriages to find out what our spouse's Primary Love Language is and learn to 'speak' it! It's important to learn your spouse's Love Language first and *then* your children's. Why? What you and your spouse show your kids is what will be important to them!

### III. The Body is for Touching

- A. Of the five senses, Touching is the only one that is not stuck in one location ... taste, smell, sight ... only happens with our tongues, noses and eyes.
- B. When it comes to physical touch, the playing field is from head to toe, and it's not just a lead to physical intimacy.
- C. Physical touch can make or break a relationship. Physical touch communicates clearly love or hate...
  - 1. A slap in the face will harm any child, but do it to a child whose Primary Love Language is Physical Touch and that child is devastated!
  - 2. Hugging helps all children, but for one whose Primary Love Language is Physical Touch and you just screamed at the top of your lungs, "I Love You!"
- D. In marriage, please understand that there is more than one dialect in the Language of Physical Touch. Also, understand that every person is different when it comes to touch ... your best teacher of this language is your spouse.
  - 1. You may like to have your feet rubbed. You try to rub your spouse's feet and they may jump out of their skin because it tickles so much!
  - 2. You may like to have your shoulders rubbed, but that doesn't mean that your spouse does. Ask! Find out! Share!
  - 3. Please don't insist on touching him/her in your way and in your time. "Learn to speak her love dialect."
- E. If you know that your spouse's Primary Love Language is Physical Touch, you have to learn their dialect.
  - 1. One person with this Love Language may only hear love with full Physical Intimacy.
    - a. Do not deny them if that is how God created them!
    - b. Their needing this to know they are loved is not more difficult than them learning to talk about their feelings or spending time shopping or hunting...
  - 2. Another person may feel extremely loved if you will just hold their hand or put your arm around them or sit close to them on the couch.
  - 3. If this is your honey's Love Language, experiment with different ways of being in contact with them during the day.
  - 4. If you grew up in a home that was not very "touchy-feely", your spouse will be surprised that you love them enough to try!
    - a. Kiss before you leave the house.
    - b. Kiss when you get home.
    - c. Put your hand on her knee under the table.
    - d. Hug him for no reason.

- e. Rub her shoulders for two minutes as you pass her in the house.
- f. Hold his hand when walking in public.
- g. Give her a huge hug before she goes shopping ... maybe she'll come home sooner!

#### IV. Crisis and Physical Touch

- A. Every family experiences some sort of crisis over the years. If your spouse or child or parent has Physical Touch as their Primary Love Language, these times of crisis call for hugs and shoulders to cry on.
- B. If there is a crisis, make yourself available to hold those you love while they cry. Your words will not mean as much as that touch!
- C. As a pastor, I have been in hospitals and funeral homes with families and it doesn't take long to figure out who has Physical Touch as their Primary Love Language.
  - 1. Hugging
  - 2. Holding
  - 3. Crying on shoulders of brothers/sisters/spouses/parents, etc.
- D. If a crisis comes up in your life, please don't miss this chance to SHOW LOVE to the one(s) you love who need Physical Touch!

#### V. Ideas

- A. In Church, put your arm around your wife or child and definitely hold hands when we are praying!
- B. If he or she likes it, give an unexpected, prolonged shoulder massage.
- C. Play footsy under the table.
- D. If you are riding in the car, don't miss that chance to hold hands or put a hand on their knee or shoulder or ????. Make sure it's okay with them!
- E. If this is your child's Love Language, do not miss a chance to hug or high-five them OFTEN!
- F. Hold your spouse's hand or put your arm around them while friends are around ... double bonus deposit! Cha-Ching!

Next Week: Wrap up this series with a reminder that Love is a Choice and that it does make a difference!

Let's Pray!