

January 31, 2021

**Speaker:** Pastor Tim McCardel

**Message Series:** Speaking The Truth in Love

**Today's Message:** What Does Love Require of Me?

### 1. Love and Light: IN THE DARKNESS

Matthew 5:16

**Our Prayer:** "Father, let my light shine before people in such a way that they may see my good works and glorify You."

**Two Realities:** 1) "All our projects, dreams, and visions are merely potential opportunities for the Father to draw attention and people to Himself." ~ Stanley

2) The success God grants you is not for your sake alone, it is a means to a much greater end, an eternal end: What do people see when they observe how you live your life?

Matthew 5:16

Matthew 7:24

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

### 2. Love Suffering

1 Peter 3:8-12

**Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:** "God exists... For us to be nice and happy."

1 Peter 3:13-18

1 Peter 3:15

1 Corinthians 9:1, 19, 22, 23 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Philippians 1:12-14, 21

**Today's America:** Thought Police / Speech Police / Cancel Culture

Galatians 5:1, 13-15

**Christian Liberty:** "The Spirit-given desire and ability to do what we should do before God."

◆ "If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." ~ George Washington

◆ "Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freedom of speech." ~ Franklin

◆ "I may not agree with you but I will defend to the death your right to say it." (Voltaire's friend)

⇒ The true Christ-follower is to use his liberty wisely—to love God and others, to serve others above himself.

### 3. Our Reason For Hope - 1 Peter 3:15

"**Hope**" [GK elpis]: when our beliefs are under great trial and persecution, our creed brings great hope.

"**Creed**" - a set of beliefs which guides one's actions

**Example:** William Wilberforce

1 Peter 3:18, 22

Romans 15:13

⇒ What Does Love Require of Me?

1 John 4:12 "His love is brought to full expression in us."