

## December 22nd – Sermon notes

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 5:14 (NIV) - "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died."

**Main Idea:** The best way to spread God's love is by consistently absorbing it ourselves.

### **I. Absorbing God's Love:**

- God's love fills us with abundant life, giving us the motive for Christian living and the energy to love others. (Romans 5:5)
- To know God better is to understand His love for us—God is love.
- It's more about the intention of our hearts than specific methods.
- **How to absorb His love practically:**
  - Engage with God in our current emotional and spiritual state.
    - Even when we are “The Grinch”
  - Believing and trusting in Scripture. (1 Peter 5:7)
    - Picture of frazzled coyote. What is most important is what direction he is headed in, towards or away from the Lord.
    - Faith is not necessarily emotional its about the decisions we make based on God’s truth.
    - We trust in traffic lights without consideration of our emotions.
  - God’s love is also absorbed through our relationships with other believers.
    - Beware of isolation but cherish solitude. Allow the real us to speak to the Lord.
  - Praise and Thanksgiving magnify the Lord instead of our problems.

### **II. The Impact of Absorbing God's Love:**

- God's love smooths life's gears. Love songs reflect this transformation.
  - The Temptations, The Carpenters, Bill Withers, Aladdin, Anita Baker, Earth, Wind & Fire.
- Filled with God's love, we naturally extend it to others.
  - Example: Zacchaeus's transformation (Luke 19).
- Our love for God is a response to His love for us. (1 John 4:10, 1 John 4:19)

### **III. The Opportunity to Absorb God's Love:**

- Christmas Reflection: Use this season to invite God into our inner place.
- Ephesians 3:18-19 - Comprehend the love of Christ and be filled with the fullness of God.
- Acknowledge and thank God for His blessings and our heavenly home.

**Conclusion:**

- Absorb God's love so fully that it overflows into the world around us.