



Take It Home

*Applying the Preached Word
Marriage and the Mercy of God
15-17 January 2009
Session 2*

Speaker: Paul David Tripp
Text: James 2:8-13; 1 John 4:7-21
Title: Love is War¹

Key Idea: Mercy and love are inextricably connected: Love Does Mercy!

Main Points:

1. Love is a war of definition:
“Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another, that does not demand reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving.”
2. Love is a war of motivation:
“Love is not best propelled by duty.”
3. Love is a war of contradiction:
“It is a cruel work of the enemy for us to be satisfied with anything less than God’s standard. God’s standard is nothing less than cruciform love.”
4. Love is a war of calling:
“Love is not your choice; love is not your decision...Love is the calling of your life.”

Questions for Application:

1. How do I define love? Where do I find loving my spouse difficult?
 - a. Do I find self-sacrifice difficult?
 - b. Am I unconcerned with the good of my spouse?
 - c. Do I demand reciprocation?
 - d. Am I withholding my love because my spouse “doesn’t deserve it”?
 - e. How is God calling me to change?
2. “One of the fundamental sins of love is forgetfulness...{therein} gratitude is replaced with entitlement.”
 - a. How do I need to recall the gospel, that I am loved by Christ?
 - b. How does the gospel motivate my pursuit and love toward my spouse?
3. “If you want to know the true quality of your love toward God, look at the quality of your relationships with those nearest to you.” How does the quality of my relationship with my spouse reveal deficiencies in my love toward God?
4. How is God calling me to take up my call to love my spouse afresh?

¹Quotes herein – Paul David Tripp, “*Marriage and the Mercy of God*” Conference, Hershey PA, 16 January 2009