This is a sermon about returning to loving God as demonstrated by loving your neighbor… the least of which is the preborn among us

"From me is thy fruit found."

- Hosea 14:8

Our fruit is found from our God as to union. The fruit of the branch is directly traceable to the root. Sever the connection, the branch dies, and no fruit is produced. By virtue of our union with Christ we bring forth fruit. Every bunch of grapes have been first in the root, it has passed through the stem, and flowed through the sap vessels, and fashioned itself externally into fruit, but it was first in the stem; so also every good work was first in Christ, and then is brought forth in us. O Christian, prize this precious union to Christ; for it must be the source of all the fruitfulness which thou canst hope to know. If thou wert not joined to Jesus Christ, thou wouldst be a barren bough indeed.

[**Ho 14:5**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=ho+14:5&translation=nas&st=1&new=1&sr=1&l=en) - [ [In Context](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=ho+14:5&t=nas&st=1&new=1&sr=1&sc=1&l=en) | [Read Chapter](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=ho+14&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en) | [Discuss this Verse](http://www.studylight.org/forums/posting.php?mode=newtopic&f=12&subject=Hosea+14:5) ]
             [ Original: [Hebrew](http://www.studylight.org/isb/bible.cgi?query=ho+14:5&it=nas&ot=bhs&nt=na&sr=1&l=en) / [Greek](http://www.studylight.org/isb/bible.cgi?query=ho+14:5&it=nas&ot=lxx&nt=na&sr=1&l=en) | [Multi-Translation](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?l=en&query=root+lebanon&section=0&translation=nas&sr=1&language=en##) | [Make Poster](http://www.studylight.org/cgi-bin/poster.cgi?verse=ho+14:5&t=nas) ]

I will be like the dew to Israel; He will blossom like the lily, And he will take **root** like the cedars of **Lebanon**.

# Return to me

Joke- It is rumored that ( use a congregation members name) went to heaven. That doesn't surprise most of us! As he was being given a tour of heaven by Saint Peter they walked by a closed door- behind the door weeping could be heard. So ( church member) went into the room and found the pope sitting there weeping greatly. So we asked him Pope- you're in heaven why are you crying , what's wrong?

The pope looked up with tear-filled eyes and said ‘they mistakenly left the R out of celebrate’ !

Sexuality issues today- Pregnancy and Sanctity of the preborn- that’s what we’ll be talking about today, kind of frames it a little bit.

I’d like to talk to you today, after a little levity, little especially to some of you are still trying to get it, what is a bit of a journey, I guess.

1. Outline sharing:

Remarks about church

 I’d like to take a **journey inward**, first, with you - inward to the heart of our church but also the heart of Crisis Pregnancy Center and **God’s heart,** and **then a journey outward** into our culture in and around our city and how we, as Christian’s can impact our society and how you can participate.in impacting people that we, as disciples of Jesus Christ are commanded to love.

So, to get a little bit organized here, we’ll go into that today. I’m going to use some base text, if you have your **swords with you** here today, **Joel 2,** Daniel, Hosea, Joel, and assundary other scriptures as we move through the sermon here this morning.

While you turn I’ll Quote Math 22- a lawyer came to jesus

* Love God and love neighbor

 I’d like to start first with this **scripture - Joel 2:12-13**…Read

 What I’d like to do this morning is to kind of **anchor down** the **essence**  not only of missions, but the church here, and that is a ministry after God’s heart.

**I.** I think that this verse of scripture, as so many others is full of **Gods desire** for men --- **We see He desires intimacy with you- Journey in**

It tells us **what God’s heart is.**

* It’s a heart for you,
* it’s a heart for fellowship,
* a heart that desires to know you,
* a desire for intimacy with you, and with every other person that walks the planet. Even the unborn.
* So much does our Father love us that He’d **rather die than live without us**.
* And He did, in Christ.
* How much **effort do we put into knowing Him**, **pressing in to** knowing Him, and with all of our hearts?
* Look at v 12 – **Return to Me**—can you hear **the passion** in that fathers cry-
* Example- man who hadn’t seen daughter in 22 years =wept
* W/all your heart- innermost being where there are no games just truth you and Him
* Men look outwardly- but god at heart
* . The prophets words are strong here, aren’t they?
* He says “with **fasting, with weeping, with mourning**
* remember the book **My heart christs home—parlor**
* When I realized in pressing in to seek him that he had been **waiting years-** I wept
* Get **serious**—return to 1st love will your seeking inconvenience you? Yes- want something bad enough –**invest-wife-**life-long pleasure
* Seeking tht is the major thing in your life- how many lost sleep or meals—let alone a sports game or tv show to look for god?
* Have that heart like Davids**- 1 thing** have I desired ps27
* What is your ONE THING???? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IS JUST “HIS THING”.
* You know, for society, and I don’t know about you, but I get caught up in the **busyness of my schedule** and, you know, it’s just amazing, isn’t it, how much information and time saving devices and all of the things we have in the modern information age, 21st century culture,
* **we have no time -----for God - to our indictment.**
* **rend your hearts’.** – clear unacceptance of **outward** (garments) essence of pharasees. Outward servie and ministry secondary to character and relationship.
* whitewashed tombs-outwardly clean inward full of death.
* Kings daughter is all beautiful within- secret place where he knows your innermost thoughts from afar.
* I submit to you that this is the highest  **purposes for which we are here**.
* ‘this is one reason I believe abborion is such an offecse to god in that each of us is and object of his affection and desire== created to love him

One is to **love the Lord, our God**, with all of our heart, which would mean our time, and all of our mind and all of our will and all of our strength,

* “return to Me.
* to know Me, to seek Me,
* to desire Me, t
* to ache for my presence in your life
* and spend the time necessary to fulfill the verse that says “If you seek Me diligently, you find Me.”
* I don’t know about you, but I want that to be the heartbeat of my life.
* And I **confess to you** all, it’s often not, and I want to give God permission to change that because when he does, I’ll be a changed man, and everything around me will change too - how I deal with it.
* Recap point 1--
* So all that to say the Lord of all heaven waits to build an intimate relationship w/you and I……

* so that we might know and understand his character.

Once We /love Know Him we will know /love what He does. Lets Investigate His Character in scripture for a moment and then we will see it in the lives of People

**II** **Once we know Him** we discern the attributes of His charater>

**A**.The first attribute of his charater is--He is a creator

* God’s heart is the heart of a father, heart of a creator.- who can deny it- from the tiniest quark of a subatomic particle to the 10 mile high mountain on surface of a planet 1billion light years away the god of heaven is a deliberatly prolific creator.

* You know, the old creed is “**the chief end of man** is to know God and enjoy Him forever.” That is why He created us and I submit to you that that is the **distinctive between man** and the baby seal that’s an endangered species and whatever animal we are trying to save next week. ***Endowed with*** a ***capacity and component to love him***

* That’s what gives us **intrinsic value and created in His image to know Him, and to fellowship with Him** and to give him pleasure, and for him to give us pleasure

* This is why the issue of **abortion,** I think, is distinguished in a lot of ways beyond all issues because it’s an **affront to the very character** and nature of our God, who describes himself as Creator but also
* That God handcrafts these tiny unborn ones is scriptually beyond contest: Ps 139
* **Recap attrib 1- to know him is to realize he is a creator**

**- I would like to submit a 2nd attribute for your consideration this am--**

**B**.A second **attribute-- God is just**

* He says he is a
* a **father to the fatherless** and husband to the widow, the Lord our God in his holy habitation - he is the voice of the voiceless, he is the **husband to the widow**. And who is more an orphan in our culture today than the baby of the mother who is seeking its life and his father has no rights in any court of law to raise his voice and protest to an abortion. - , or a cultural widow rather, than that young girl who can’t go to her parents and whose boyfriend has abandoned her and she has nobody, except Planned Parenthood who wants to capitalize on her, and the church, if they are engaged, as we are here.
* What is it to know him? Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom it says in Jeremiah 9. Let not the **mighty man boast in his might**. Let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts, boast about his - that he understands and knows me, the living God, who
* **exersizes lovingkindess, justice and righteousness on the earth. “**I delight in these things” says the Lord. Balance of his character. don’t have a God that is here to condemn.
* **What do we delight in –God’s things??**
*

##  Yet As modern, self dependant, free moral agent Americans we easily forget this **second** Attribute here---God is just

* Can we as a country easily escape this justice?
* EZ 16 "Also My [R433](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#R433#R433) bread which I gave you, fine flour, oil and honey with which I fed you, you [F171](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#F171#F171) would offer before them for a soothing aroma; so it happened," declares the Lord GOD. [**20**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16:20&sr=1&t=nas) "Moreover, you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me [R434](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#R434#R434) and sacrificed [R435](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#R435#R435) them to idols [F172](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#F172#F172) to be devoured. [**21**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16:21&sr=1&t=nas) "You slaughtered My [R436](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#R436#R436) children and offered them up to idols [F173](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#F173#F173) by causing [R437](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#R437#R437) them to pass through *the fire.* [**22**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=eze+16:22&sr=1&t=nas)
* See on every street corner- to the empting coffers of our social security

**C. Third & thankfully In our journey inward to k**now Him, we find that **he is a God of compassion forgiveness.** This is the essence of God’s nature.

**Reporter –** love thoses who make bad decisions if she were our enemy love her then too!

-

 Testimony of a post abortion woman

- if ab has touched you – we love you.

* + Recap So as disciples of Jesus, our starting place in dealing not only with societies maladies like abortio but all of life **is orientated thru a journey inward to loving God- the great commandment**
* **this orientates us to the second half o jesus response ---the journey outward to loving our neighbor/community—if a**

**the world says do unto others before they do to you –assert your rights - this is never more clearly seen than in the abortion arena**

**\**

**‘Acts –fulfill gods purpose- danger of being Chrisiain in America is faulty belief that if we mentally ascent to what we hear we have done something about it that to believe it is enoght when indeed if we deepl belive it we will ACT.**

**gods work--done gods way --leads to gods glory—stool illust**

 Our fruit is found from our union to God . The fruit of the branch is directly traceable to the root. Sever the connection, the branch dies, and no fruit is produced. By virtue of our union with Christ we bring forth fruit. Every bunch of grapes have been first in the root, it has passed through the stem, and flowed through the sap vessels, and fashioned itself externally into fruit, but it was first in the stem; so also every good work was first in Christ, and then is brought forth in us. O Christian, prize this precious union to Christ; for it must be the source of all the fruitfulness which thou canst hope to know. If thou wert not joined to Jesus Christ, thou wouldst be a barren bough indeed.

"From me is thy fruit found." Hosea

I jhn----ought to love one another. [**12**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=1jo+4:12&sr=1&t=nas) No [R200](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=1jo+4&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#R200#R200) one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love [R201](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=1jo+4&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#R201#R201) is perfected in us. [**13**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=1jo+4:13&sr=1&t=nas)

God [R210](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=1jo+4&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#R210#R210) is love, and the one who abides [R211](http://www.studylight.org/desk/?query=1jo+4&t=nas&st=1&new=1&l=en#R211#R211) in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

 **That girl who wants abortion doesn’t care what your opinion is, the bible says or about her baby. She will listen however--- if you care about her**

This is where orgs like cpc and **your church** come in loving others :

* Reach our community where it lives- sexuality
* We have answer- Christ, truth--- pregnancy /abortion /STD’s
* Stats 9k 5.5k 200, 550
* Invite involvement
* To him that knowth to do good and doth it not, to him it is sin.
* God looks at the heart- purity in the inward parts--- this church lead entire community.
* Pray, sponsor and ultrasound for a young mom, train at a Pre-born Clinic.

I would like to start this second part of our time together introducing you to two people whose lives have been touched by CPC loving them:

# TESTIMONY

* He is **not condemn** the world. It says Jesus said He didn’t come into the world to condemn it but that the world might be saved through him. Guilt to repentance, not accepting shame . guilt says: “ I sinned. Shame says ( wrongly) I am sin.” It is gods **nature - to reconcile** - and he wants you for that.

In closing you can see that CPC is a ministry rooted in a love for god that compels us outward to love others:

## Last year- \*9300, 5700, 700, 230, 300 vols

Training , Walk volunteer, pray, vote, give

church

1. So as we near ending our time together We see the first commandment of Loving God leads us to --- The Second commandment to love our neighbor.

---- wh

* This is the journey out. We do it the, to journey out and to love those around us, and if we don’t do it as the church of Jesus Christ, nobody is going to do it.
* The **second commandment** is like unto this to love your neighbor as self
* Goodly philosphers
* We do it, that going out **issues forth from a sense of Gods desire for the people he created**
* This is the second essence of missions we consider today- to love our neighbor as our self.
* Listen folks there is nothing more important to god today than to reach lost
* **Gave his very richest treasure –jesus -to have them**
* This is the essence of CPC –evangelists to ABV
* **Beg** you---- hear his heart
* God has entrusted the **fate of all men to His church**
* More specifically --- to **you and I**
* The question that remains to be answered in every life –what are you **going to do about it?**
* Jesus told the parables about the woman that **lost the coin**
* The man who found **the pearl**
* The man who found the **treasure in the field**
* Though often not portrayed as such—**God is the man** gave his all for the coin of mens souls the pearl of their fellowhip

Where do we go to see the face of Christ---- when you have done it to the least of these my brothers yhou have done it unto me

1. We see Christ in the face of the needy…

What will you give what will I give?

Will your journey inward in loving god lead YOU outward this am to loving others?????

Interest v- commitment=Action

Changes lives here and abroad- client story

Volunteer., vote, pray. GIVE

Seek Him