



God's New Normal of BEING ODD

APRIL 27-MAY 2
DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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Decatur | Concord United Methodist

MONDAY

1 Peter 1:17-23

This was the same passage that we read on Sunday during worship. Take time to read it again, slowly. What sticks out to you when you read it? What do you notice reading it now that you didn't notice before. What do you think Peter means by living in a strange land (your translation could say living as foreigners or in exile)? How is our land strange, now? During these hard days, Peter says, "you must keep on loving with all your heart" (v.22), how are you doing that this week?

TUESDAY

Ephesians 4:1-3

John Wesley wrote about the goal of the Christian life saying that there is "nothing higher and nothing lower than this: the pure love of God and man—the loving God with all our heart and soul and our neighbor as ourselves." Have you tried to create a mental checklist where you ask yourself if your actions show pure love? If not, try on this practice. If you have, what has it shown you about your thoughts, or words, or actions?

Thursday

1 John 4:7-21

In this letter, John sees love as something that comes from God and something you must show towards others. What do you think John means in verse 20, where he writes, "But if we say we love God and don't love each other, we are liars"? What do you do with those people in your life that are hard to love? How does the pure love that God calls you to apply to them? Do you ever find yourself hard to love? How do you think God sees you in these moments? How could this affect your own love toward others?

THURSDAY

Romans 13:8-10

Saying that love sums up or fulfills the law is rather odd. Perhaps you take the love idea for granted in the Bible, but if love really fulfills the law how should that impact our laws? What are the "laws" (either actual laws or traditions you live by) that are not inspired by love and do not show love toward others? Do you think these laws are necessary? Do you think these laws or practices are needed as a practical exception to this command of love?

FRIDAY

Matthew 5:43-48

Wow! If you let this passage be familiar to you it might not shock you, but what Jesus is saying is utterly shocking. Jesus says "love your enemies"! What do you think Jesus means when he says this? What do you think this means in your life, today? What do you think this means for Christians around the world? Do you have trouble with this or does this teaching bother you? Bring it to God in prayer asking for clarity.

SATURDAY

John 3:16-17

This is one of the most famous passages in all the Bible. What does it mean to you? What does God's love for the world mean to you? Do you love the people of the world as God does? What has a week of focusing on love shown you? What have you learned about yourself and God this week? How can you continue to show love?

SUNDAY

Worship @ 11am online and audio only

decaturomc.com or
(646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 170 368 050

Password: 145