



*Loving our neighbors coming out of prison by equipping Christians
to bridge the gap from prison to the local church*

SERMON NOTES

by Manny Mill

**“Just don’t tell me that you love me,
BUT show me that you love me with JOY!”**

Main Text: Proverbs 3:1-5, 21-28

Supporting Texts: Matt. 28:16-20; Luke 10:27-29 & 37; I John 2:3-6, 4:18, 5:2-5; James 1:5-7, 2:8-9, 4:17

This is what I want you to know:

We as Christians must love, cherish and obey the Word of God. We have no other choice! The Word of God is our life (Deuteronomy 32:47). Therefore, we must validate our love for God by the ways in which we show God’s love to our neighbors. When we SHOW our neighbor God’s love, then we bring God glory in which He delights...and He unleashes into us His unspeakable JOY (I Peter 1:8). How many truly joyful people do you know, perhaps besides yourself?

The more glory we bring to God, the more real and transferable JOY we will experience from God. Therefore, we will experience and find complete and total satisfaction in God and will find Him to be very reliable and very sufficient, which will bring huge credibility to the Gospel and to our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and is something people will notice immediately.

We have a crisis in America – the breakdown of the family that leads to crime. This year over 700,000 people (2.4 million total prison population in America) will be released from prison in America into our communities. 85% come from broken families. 11% of them are Christian. They are our neighbors. We, as the church, must meet them at the prison gate and **show** them the love of Jesus Christ that we have experienced without **fear**. If we do not meet them at the prison gate, the devil will be there waiting for them with open arms, and 80% of them will come back to prison within two years. Fear is the enemy of the Christian. Fear will paralyze us from loving our neighbor, and therefore, from doing what is good and right in God’s eyes!

For a Christian: **Love** is our character and our credibility, **Joy** is our trademark, **The Cross** is our identity, **Humility** is our main ingredient. Humility is not measured by one’s amount of service, but rather by one’s Christ-like attitude of submission and obedience. This leads one to a permanent, righteous position of joy at the cross!! John Calvin said: “Christianity is three things: 1) humility; 2) humility and 3) humility.” He went on to say: “We as Christians must make the invisible Kingdom of God visible.”

This is what I want you to do:

I want to invite you to come to the cross – surrender and die to self. At the cross, there is no place for self. Our JOY flows from the cross. It is then, and only then, that our fears will disappear because love has conquered us and our fears. It is at the cross where our capacity for love will expand without limits—Biblical love in which we will be free to love our neighbor with passion, intensity and security. Dr. John Piper said: “The cross is not only an objective object where Christ died for us, but it is also a subjective object where we, each of us, must die to self.” It is from our position at the cross that we must love our neighbor. We will then cause a revolution of love for the common good of all that will result in breaking the cycle of crime for good.

Come to Angola Prison for the Holy Spirit to work in you and with you so your fears will be conquered with love and joy!

"One must not only profess Christ but one must possess Christ." -Bishop Eugene Tanniehill