



Sermon Notes: November 8, 2015

The Power of Meaningful Touch

2 of 4 from the teaching series "The Blessing"
Multiple Texts • Pastor Paul Bradford

Touch was created by God and communicates love and value to others.

- *Genesis 1:27, 31* - Touch is a part of God's physical creation - we are physical and spiritual beings.
- Because we are body and spirit, physical touch communicates to the heart. God created it, we need it, and God does not intend for us to live without it.
- Touch is an indispensable part of communicating love and value to others.

The Bible expects and exhorts us to give and receive appropriate, meaningful touch.

- Touch was always part of the blessing.
 - *Genesis 27:26-27* - Isaac's blessing of Jacob - kiss.
 - *Genesis 48:9-10* - Jacob's blessing of Joseph's sons - kiss and embrace, hands on head.
 - *Matthew 19:13-15* - Jesus blessing the children - placed hands on them.
- Touch was an important expression of love and value in daily life.
 - *Genesis 33:4* - Esau embraces Jacob, kisses him.
 - *Genesis 45:15* - Joseph kisses his brothers.
 - *Song of Solomon* - love between a husband and wife.
- Laying on of hands was nearly always used when praying for the sick, receiving the fullness of the Spirit, and commissioning leaders.
 - *Luke 4:40* - Jesus lays hands on the sick and heals them.
 - *Acts 8:17* - Peter and John placed hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.
 - *Acts 13:2* - church placed hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them off to do the Lord's work.
- The Apostles exhorted the early church community to express affection to one another.
 - Paul (in 4 books) and Peter (1st) exhort their hearers to greet one another with a kiss - a common form of greeting for family members and friends, also an expression of reconciliation.
 - In our culture, "holy embrace" would be the application (see "The Message" translation: *Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12*).
- Biblical touch is always appropriate touch.
 - *1 Timothy 5:1-2* - the church is family, we are to honor and love others, and touch must be done with absolute purity - not self-serving, controlling, violent, forceful, or demanding.
 - Appropriate touch errs on the side of restraint.

OUR RESPONSE

Daily give meaningful touch to communicate love and value, and to nurture and heal those around you with God's love.