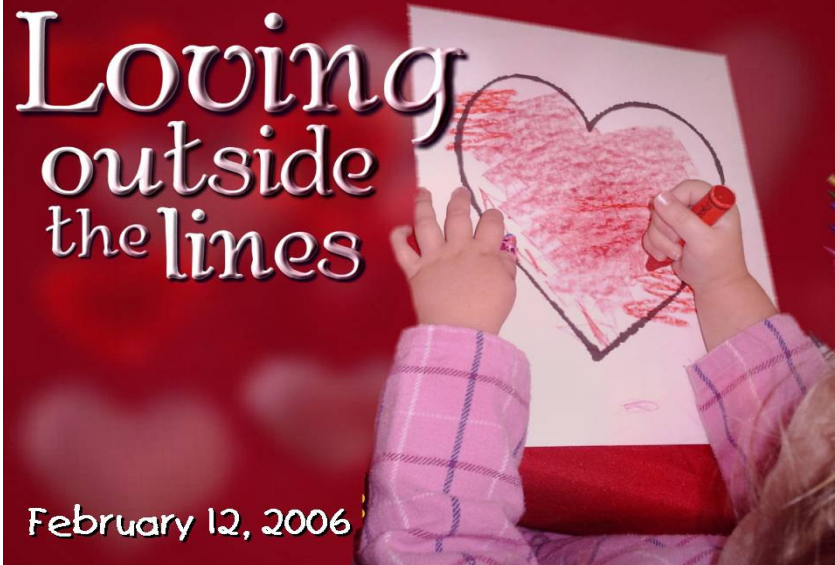


SEACOAST CHURCH



● One of the first important skills we learn as children is coloring! At some point we were told that we needed to **stay inside the lines**.

● Love is the **highest calling** a person can pursue. **Matthew 22:36-39; John 13:35** Jesus gives the world the right judge the authenticity of our **faith** by what kind of lovers we are.

Loving Inside the Lines

■ There are people in all our lives that are **easy** to love.

Matthew 5:43-47

■ There are people in all our lives that are **hard** to love.

■ There are times when we get **confused** about love.

◇ Love is not primarily an **emotion**. It's an **act of the will**.

2 Timothy 1:7

Loving Outside the Lines

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

■ Loving outside the lines requires **sacrifice**.

1 John 3:16, 18

■ Loving outside the lines takes a lot of **courage**.

◇ Loving outside the lines makes you **vulnerable**.

◇ It means **acting** in loving ways when the **feelings** are not there.

◇ It takes courage to never lose **faith** that God is **right** and believe that love will **win out**.

■ Loving outside the lines means we look for the **best**.

◇ It hopes that the one who has hurt us will **come around**.

◇ But it doesn't wait **passively**. **Romans 5:8**

◇ God didn't **wait** for us to clean up our act before He offered forgiveness and reconciliation. He took the **action**, even while we were separated from Him that made it possible for us to **restore** the relationship with Him.

■ Loving outside the lines means we're **committed** without **conditions**. (endures through every circumstance)

How to Start Loving Outside the Lines

■ Decide to settle for **nothing less**.

■ Understand that loving outside the lines is a **"God-thing"**.

Galatians 5:22; 1 Thessalonians 4:9

■ Don't **quit** when you fail at loving outside the lines.

Next Sunday's Kick off of 40 Days of Community: We're Better Together!