**December 31, 2012**

**Philippians 2:12-16
New Years 2013**

**Q.**  What kind of church do we want to be in 2013?

We as a church have a mission that God has given to us:

* It’s a calling that few have
* It’s a responsibility that few are willing to take on
* It’s a need that most communities aren’t aware of

***1st We must continue to grow in our passion for Jesus***. (vss. 12-13)

“Hillside Community Church exists to empower people to passionately live out their love for Christ.”

A passionate believer is constantly asking this question: “Lord, what do you want from my life?”

A passionate church asks the same question: “Lord, what do you want from us as a church?”

Note: Phil. 3:7-14 – the real life of a church is its passion for Jesus.

We are living in at time when people need to see churches that have a passion for their Savior and Lord.

A passionate Church is a growing church; A passionate church is a drawing church; A passionate church is a life-giving church.

***2nd We must continue to be a church that overflows with love for others. (vs. 15)***

Our love for Christ must:

* Move us to do acts of love
* Cause us to overlook others faults
* Overflow into lives that are looking for Jesus’ love

A true heart of a church is possible when we collectively love Jesus – Phil. 1:9-11

***3rd We must always be willing to count the cost of loving like Jesus***

To truly follow Jesus is to count the cost of loving.

Note: Luke 9:57-62 – the price of being a loving church can be costly!

Jesus never said that being a loving church would be an easy road.

To be a loving church in 2013 we must be willing to turn our “But let me first’s” into, “Lord, whatever you want I’m ready right now to do it.”

Note: Phil. 2:14 – “Without complaining or arguing”

A serving church is a loving church; is an anointed church; is an effective church; is a spirit-led church.

At the heart of Jesus was servanthood. At the heart of HCC is our servanthood.

Conclusion:

I believe that 2013 holds some of the greatest moments yet for us as a church.

I trust in God’s faithfulness and sustaining power in this year ahead.

Our sacrifice will be great but our reward will be even greater.