



Sermon Outlines by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

Hugs In a Bare Den (Luke 18:15-17)

I. Introduction:

1. To the Jews, Mt. Sinai could be touched but was forbidden to man or beasts. Christians are come to a church, God, Christ who are "touchables". **Hebrews 12:18-24**
2. When Jesus asked, "Who touched Me?" (**Luke 8:45**, "my clothes?" **Mark 5:30-31**) there was no recrimination involved, but part of some multitude had become a "Somebody touched Me" (**Luke 8:46**).
3. Though Spirit (**John 4:24**), God wishes to be known through His: **Creation, Romans 1:19-20; Christ, John 14:9**; and **Collection of Scripture, I Corinthians 2:11-13**.
4. "Let brotherly love continue" (**Hebrews 13:1**) means the church of Christ should be the on-going "touch of God" to the world.

II. Discussion: TOUCHABLE GOD

A. Even Idolaters "Grope" for God (Greek *pselaphaow*, handle, feel) **Hebrews 12:18**

1. **Acts 17:27** - He Is Near but not known without Scripture
John 17:3, 8, 17-19
2. **Acts 17:22-31** - Paul preached what is now Scripture
3. **Luke 24:39; I John 1:1** - Jesus Christ Identified by touch
4. **Acts 8:35** - Preach Jesus= Preach the Word **I Peter 1:7-8**

B. Jesus Christ is our "Contact" I Timothy 2:5

1. **On Earth** (Greek *aptow* - cling)

a) Miraculous healing almost entirely done with contact

(1) "Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, 'I Am willing; be cleansed.'" **Matthew 8:3**

(2) People touched Him **Mark 6:56** - "begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well."

(3) By His hands many were healed **Mark 6:2**.

b) Babies Blessed **Luke 18:15** - "Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them"

2. Only forbidden if it hindered God's Will:

a) **John 20:17** - "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father"

b) **2 Corinthians 6:17** - "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." (Cf **Isaiah 52:11**; **Ezekiel 20:34,41**) Clinging to the world would contaminate God's Temple (**2 Corinthians 6:16**). There be no absolute separation of Christian contact with the world, only in heart and purpose **John 17:15**; **Romans 8:1,5**

C. The World's Philosophy: "Therefore, if you die with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations--'Do not touch (Greek *aptow*), do not taste (Greek *geuse*), do not handle (Greek *thighes*),' which all concern things which perish with the using— according to the commandments and doctrines of men?" **Colossians 2:20-22**

1. *thighes* - to touch, handle **Hebrews 12:20**.

2. **There should be no "untouchables" to Christian love.**

III. TOUCHABLE SPOUSE **1 Corinthians 7:1-5** ("You'd Better Touch Me")

A. Intimacy Demanded (I.D.) [Greek *aptow* - cling]

1. **Genesis 2:18-25** - Eve is from Adam, for Adam, given to Adam
2. **Ephesians 5:28-29** - So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church." (**world reverses it -- hands all over before marriage -- hardly contacting each other after!!**)

B. No Distance ("0 milepost")

1. Clint Black's hit song "Love Is" says "I don't know where you start and where I end"
2. ***We need feather beds, smaller houses, fireplaces/ wood stoves, and single control electric blankets, again!***
3. **Women** should stop needling and start knitting;
Men should stop hunting recreation and enjoy recreating home-life.
4. "Promise Keepers" would be great if they were Christians.

C. Destroyed by:

1. Divorce and remarriage
 - a) Who's perfect? "my wife's 1st husband"
 - b) Wife wants cremation and painted on bedroom ceiling
2. Disregard for marriage **Hebrews 13:4**
3. Ever notice how often the terms "estranged", "boyfriend", "ex-boyfriend", "lover" are used to describe domestic violence?

IV. TOUCHABLE CHILDREN

A. Perverse Times

1. **Titus 1:15** - "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled"
 - a) **"Gay" people have stolen a perfectly good word and lifestyle**
 - b) **The Ellen Degenerates, Michael Jacksons, ad nauseum come to mind before normal associations are made with some people.**
2. **Matthew 24:12** - "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold". Parents, teachers, preachers, Christians, policemen, et.al. will hear "harassment" instead of "hold me".
3. A common thread through many sins is the lack of parental approval: prostitutes, lesbians, adulterers/ adulteresses, homosexuals, drug & alcohol addicts, dis-associated Christians, gang members, etc.

B. Powerful Talk

1. A meeting (November 1997) of the Society for Neuroscience found that denial of touch had "serious biochemical consequences for the baby. A mother's caresses seem to help moderate production of a hormone affecting the body's reaction to stress. Institutionalized Romanian orphans without such attention showed wide fluctuations of that hormone level. Abnormal levels of the hormone have been linked to changes in a part of the brain involved with learning and memory." (p. 62, "Health", "U.S. News In Brief", **US News & World Report** Nov.10, 1997)
2. "A comprehensive, \$45 million study sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is tracking 1,300 children and may provide some answers. According to initial results, in cases where the mother-child relationship is already weak, placing

a child in day care as an infant for more than ten hours a week — especially poor quality day care — can do real damage. The researchers found that such children were “insecurely attached” to their mothers at twelve months of age. Numerous studies have shown that this weaker bond puts kids at risk for later behaviour problems, including over aggressiveness, disobedience, and an inability to learn in school or to feel compassion for others. Poor quality day care can also hinder development of a child’s language and cognitive skills at the ages of two and three ... Recent studies also confirm that a child whose father or mother stays home and resents it is worse off than if the parents go to work” (pp 61, 64 “*Lies Parents Tell Themselves About Why They Work*”, **US News & World Report**, May 12, 1997)

3. Describing the term "attachment disorder", Miriam Horn said, "Institutionalized children subjected to chronic physical and emotional neglect are the most likely, say attachment therapists, to develop symptoms of the disorder: an incapacity to form bonds of trust and love, coldness, even cruelty, to primary caregivers, indiscriminate affection for strangers, destructiveness without remorse, a gift for lying and manipulation, brutal self-abuse ... Institutionalization can be horribly damaging. In the 1940's and '50's, landmark studies by British psychiatrist John Bowlby and American psychologist Mary Ainsworth demonstrated the devastating effects on children of institutional care, studies that led to the closure of most U.S. orphanages. Since then, a growing body of research has shown that the physical and emotional deprivations of institutionalization can cause deficits in brain development and altered brain chemistry — though what is perhaps more remarkable is that the vast majority are not badly damaged. Attachment disorders derive from disconnect between need and gratification: In the worst facilities, crying brought no response, hunger brought no food." (pp24, 26, “A Dead Child, a Troubling Defense,” **US News & World Report**, July 14, 1997)

4. "By age two, the number of synapses, or connections among the neurons, approaches adult levels, and by age three a child's brain has one quadrillion such connections. ... According to recent findings, the neuron links that are the keys to creativity and intelligence in later life are mainly laid down by the age of three. ... Interactions with an attentive adult - in most cases a mother — matter most. The sight, sound, touch, smell, and especially the intense involvement, through language and eye contact, of parent and child affect the number and sophistication of links within the brain. ... Professional parents give their children emotional encouragement thirty times an hour — twice as often as the working class baby and five times as often as the welfare baby. ... Those left behind at that age may never catch up. ... What children need is the touching, holding, cooing, rocking, and stimulation that come traditionally from a mother. ... When babies are cared for by caring adults, they become better learners and are much more confident to take on the world. Attention is the greatest gift that parents can bestow." (p 92, "Attention Must Be Paid," "Editorial" by Mortimer B. Zuckerman, Editor-in-Chief, US News & World Report, August 25, 1997)

C. "To Whom Shall We Go?" (John 6:68)

1. **John Howard Payne's "Home, Sweet Home"** said, "How sweet 'tis to sit 'neath a fond father's smile, And the caress of a mother to soothe and beguile!"
2. Jesus Christ has "the words of eternal life" **John 6:68-69**
3. **The church of Christ is His Body Colossians 1:24**
 - a) "touchy-feely" only for the "liberals"?
 - b) "holy kiss" **Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; I Thessalonians 5:26**
 - c) "right hand of fellowship" **Galatians 2:9**
 - d) "laying on of hands" **Acts 6:6; 13:3; 14:23**

4. ***A "hug" is one of the most open, vulnerable gestures one human makes toward another human.***

D. Provide what? I Timothy 5:8

1. Presence - "latch key", "empty afternoons", "gang time"
2. Cure for "old age" **I Timothy 5:3-16 (v.15)** remember the song "***The Cat's In the Cradle***"? Neglected children will.

V. Conclusion:

1. Make "hugs" an acronym: **Help Unloved Get Stability Soon**
2. ***Many dens are "bare" of the thing that matters most: personal, parental pleasure in progeny.***
3. Jesus describes the Christian's "welcome home": "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" **Matthew 25:34**
4. If our homes cannot show open love, what makes us think our children will want to go to heaven? **Mark 16:15-16**