

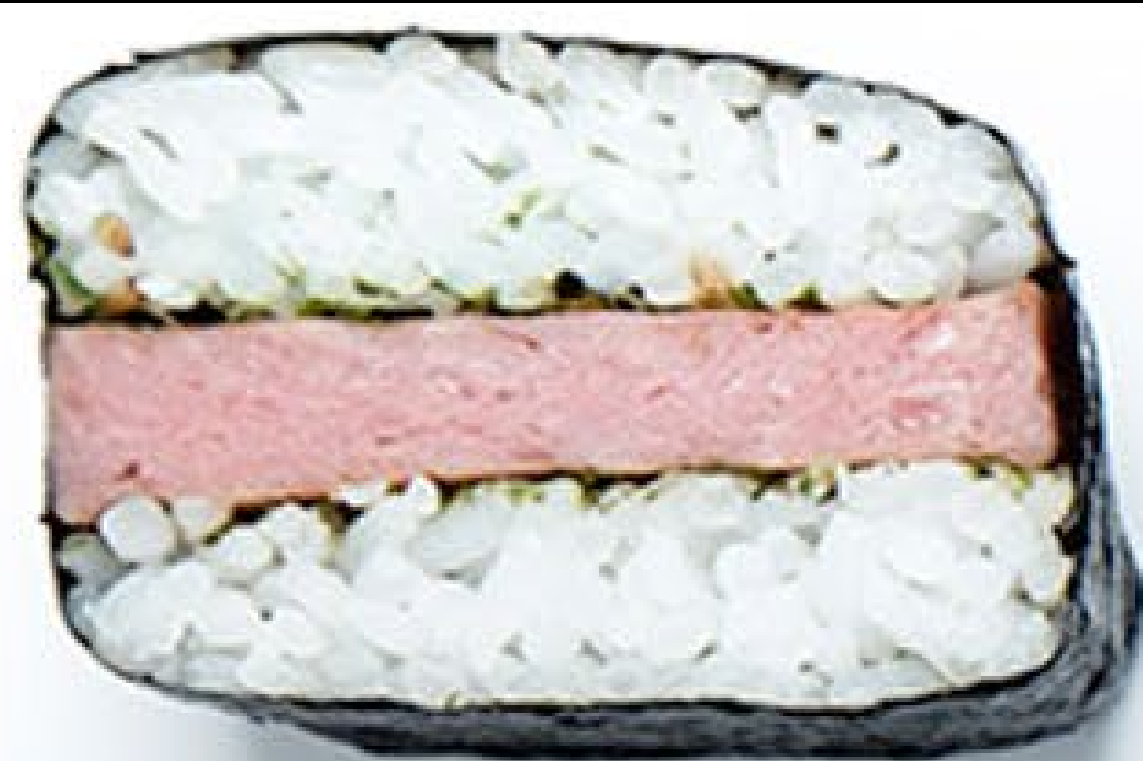


**FEBRUARY
SERMON
SERIES**

LOVE

Openness

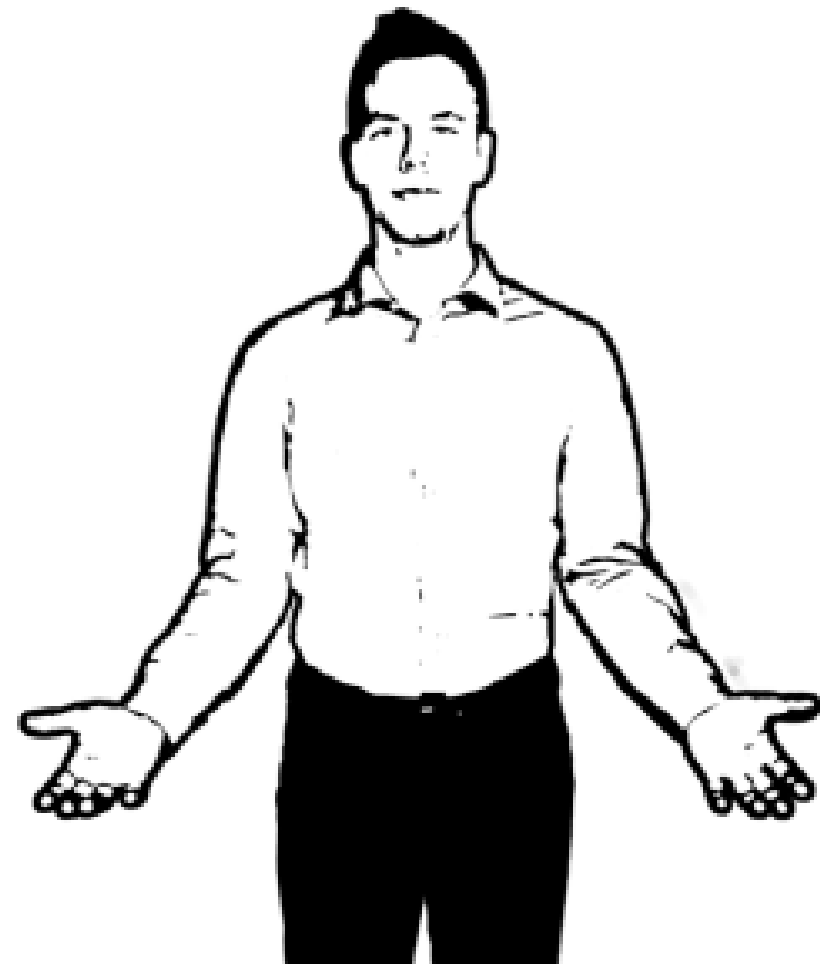




“[The Openness of God] regards God as receptive to new experiences and as flexible in the way he works toward his objectives in the world.”

Clark Pinnock; *The Openness of God*





OPEN

Influenced

Inspired

Motivated

Taking in



CLOSED

Stubborn

Immovable

Defensive

Shutting out




² He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. “Lord,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.

Exodus 32





*¹³ Remember your servants
Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom
you swore by your own self: ‘I will
make your descendants as
numerous as the stars in the sky and
I will give your descendants all this
land I promised them, and it will be
their inheritance forever.’” ¹⁴ Then
the Lord relented and did not bring
on his people the disaster he had
threatened.*



²⁰ “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“It is God’s nature to love, to love without measure and without interruption. And precisely because this is God’s essential nature, he must be sensitive and responsive to the creaturely world. Everything that happens has an effect on him. Because God’s love never changes, God’s experience must change. In other words, it is part of God’s unchanging nature to change.”

Clark Pinnock; *The Openness of God*



¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.



