

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

The Lord Reigns, Above All, Worthy is the Lamb

WELCOME

What or Why. What is more important, what you do or why you do what you do?

WORD

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

¹ *Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*

REMEMBER YOUR FIRST LOVE

The reason behind why we do what we do is more important than what we actually do. This is because the “why” reveals what is in our hearts and what our motivation is for doing what we are doing.

The Bible tells us that God rebuked the church in Ephesus because while it is active in God’s work, it had forgotten its first love (**Revelation 2:1-4**).

Love is the most powerful motivation. If we are not careful, we can become too busy with so many activities that it becomes merely a duty or ritual and is no longer done out of love. God wants us to love Him, He does not want us just to perform for Him. Activities are great, but our relationship with God is more important.

Sometimes we do not feel like obeying Jesus; we do not feel like doing what we need to do as His followers. But God is reminding us to remember our first love. The solution is not in focusing on our love for Jesus, but in focusing instead on His love for us.

LOVE LIKE JESUS

It is only through our lives that the unbelievers around us — our family, relatives, classmates, workmates, neighbors, and the world — may be able to really see Jesus. They are watching us so we need to model what it really means to love, and our model for that love is Jesus (**Ephesians 5:1-2**).

The basis of loving like Jesus is Jesus Himself. Based on His last words at the cross, we can truly love like Jesus:

“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)

“Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

1. To love like Jesus is supernatural. This love can only come from God.

The crucifixion is the worst and most excruciating capital punishment invented by humanity. In the midst of this horrible pain on the cross, the first word of Jesus is “Father.” Jesus was secure in God and has an intimate relationship with His Father.

Similarly, if we have an intimate relationship with God, we can come to Him during the darkest times of our lives. When we are secure in the Lord, we believe that He has our best interests in mind. Even in our worst circumstances, we know He loves us. In the midst of our suffering, we can trust God. It is by focusing on this love of God that we learn to love Him in return.

2. To love like Jesus is to forgive.

To love like Jesus, we must realize that forgiveness is part of the language of God’s love. He wants to forgive us. After saying, “Father...” Jesus said, “...forgive them...”.

To love like Jesus enables us to forgive people who hurt us. To love is to forgive. We can forgive because God loves us. We cannot truly love and forgive others until we have an intimate vertical relationship with God.

Jesus knew well that His executioners did not know what they were doing. They didn’t even know who He was. Had they realized that He was the Messiah, the very fulfillment of the prophecy (**Psalms 22:16-18; Isaiah 53:5-6**), they would not have done what they did to Him.

WORD (cont'd)

3. To love like Jesus is costly because it cost Jesus His own life.

True love is costly. Counterfeit love is selfish. We do not deserve the love of Jesus. What we really deserve is to die for our sins. But Jesus took our place on the cross. He has caused all our iniquities to fall on Him. He paid the penalty on the cross with His blood — His life for our life. Until we understand that the death of Jesus is in substitution for our own lives, we will never understand the grace of God. The grace of God abounds because of His love for us.

4. To love like Jesus is seeking the highest good of imperfect people.

Jesus was on the cross between two criminals who represent all of us today — two kinds of sinners: one is willing to repent, one is not.

Both of them saw and heard the same things from Jesus. Both were brought next to Jesus. But they responded differently from each other. One was hardened and mocked Jesus. The other was repentant and humble, sought Jesus, and believed in Him.

The best thing that happened to the life of this repentant criminal was to be caught and crucified. It was what brought him to the very presence of Jesus. That day, his repentance saved him from eternal death. Jesus promised him the assurance of his salvation (**Luke 23:43**).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Copy Exactly.** Why should the people around you follow you according to **1 Corinthians 11:1**?
- 2. Two Sinners.** Between the two criminals crucified beside Jesus, with whom can you relate your personal relationship with Jesus?
- 3. To Love Again.** How can you personally love like Jesus based on what we have learned today?

WORKS

DEFINE TRUE LOVE

How do you define the love of Jesus? What verse supports your definition?

What is your plan of action to love like Jesus?

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends