

# 4Ws TRUE LOVE WINS

## WHAT ARE YOU KNOWN FOR?

FEBRUARY 13, 2022

### WORSHIP

You, You Are God, Living Hope, Think About His Love

### WELCOME

What is your favorite love song and why?

### WORD

#### 1 JOHN 4:19-21

<sup>19</sup> We love, because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Social researchers have concluded that love is so vital for our wellbeing psychologically, emotionally, and even physically! We all long and look for love, but many are disillusioned, discouraged, and disappointed in our quest for love. Some conclude that love is an illusion – it doesn't exist. On the other spectrum, you still have lots of people believing in love – they think love is the most important thing and they dream and hope to find real love. Love is a victim of the world's varying perspectives, and usually experienced as temporal, temperamental, and transient. However, TRUE LOVE exists, and even in the chaos we see in families, social media, and the world, TRUE LOVE WINS. We were made in the image of God, and GOD IS LOVE; we are to receive love and to give love. But what are Christians known for? If we want to be known for LOVE, we must adhere to the following standards:

#### 1. COUNTER-INTUITIVE

Love is not about feelings – it has something to do with your will, it is a command! **John 13:34-35** gives us the command to "love one another" in the way Jesus Christ loved us. Jesus loved "imperfect people" – Judas, Peter, James, John, etc. – and as our definition of love goes, "it is a commitment towards imperfect people to seek their highest good..." Jesus loved us unconditionally, selflessly laying down His own life for us. Love is counterintuitive in this way. Love, not religious activities, is the mark of spiritual maturity. Others think that it is knowledge, and they desire "deeper truth" – but knowledge without love makes one arrogant (**1 Corinthians 8:1**). What can be deeper than the reality that Jesus the Son of God loved us and died for us? The Word of God is for transformation more than for information. Still, some people think it is about spiritual gifts; however, without love, those gifts mean nothing (**1 Corinthians 13:1-2**). Spiritual maturity is CHRISTLIKENESS, and God wants us to understand that loving Him and loving one another is the best display of spiritual maturity. In fact, when we are given the task to do "witnessing" or sharing the gospel, our usual concern is what we should say and how we should say it – but **John 13:35** reminds us that people will know Jesus more by the way we love one another. Today, we sometimes dishonor His Name because we attack each other, judge others, and engage in useless fights to the point of espousing "cancel culture". Imagine if Jesus were to cancel you! The greatest attraction for Christianity are Christians, but we also are the greatest turn-off because we are not well-known for loving others. May people see Jesus more in us as we love one another!

True love is also for our protection. It is not a license for us to sin. It will help us become holy, and motivate us to keep obeying God's commands (**Romans 13:9-10**).

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#### 2. CONSCIOUS

You cannot be neutral or passive about love – you have to be proactive and aware! Remember, the world is watching us. In **Luke 6:31-33**, Jesus tells us to “**treat others the same way you want them to treat you**” – a command in the present tense. True love is PROACTIVE. As a Christian, being helpful, kind, and loving is expected of us. We are to be different from the rest of the world! We are to love better than the rest of the world.

#### 3. CONSIDERATE

Our natural mode is selfishness, but true love requires us to be considerate. Many of us are entitled; to be considerate means to do the opposite. The Bible tells us in **Philippians 2:3-4** to “**do nothing from selfishness and empty conceit**”, and that the secret is “**humility**” and “**regarding others as more important than ourselves**”. Being considerate is the key to fight this tendency of selfishness. True love is to honor [Gk. Timeo – to treasure] others (**Romans 12:9-10**). In **2 Timothy 3:1-4**, we were warned that people will be lovers of selves – so even in families, both parents and children, husband and wife, have to consider one another’s need for honor, respect, care, and provision of needs! This is also applied to discipleship gatherings, or especially when we interact with people who have yet to know Jesus. **Ephesians 4:15** reminds us to “**speak truth in love**”! **1 Corinthians 16:14** reminds us to let all that we do be done in love – in schools, offices, and our homes, and apply Pray, Care, and Share the gospel!

#### 4. CHRIST-CENTERED

True love is supernatural; it is beyond our power. When you love people, you do so because you love Jesus. You also should admit that you don’t have enough power to love like Jesus. It is impossible and can only be done through His power. **1 John 4:19** is clear – we can only love this way because He first loved us! **Galatians 5:22** also includes love as a fruit of the Holy Spirit; it is the work of God in our lives. You cannot give what you do not possess! Love is not just a proof of our salvation, but also the overflow of God’s presence in our lives. The reason why TRUE LOVE WINS is because you are able to go the extra mile by His power. We are distributors – we are not the source of love, it only flows through us FROM GOD. It is indeed supernatural – motion before emotion, obedience before feelings! **1 John 4:7-8** reminds us to **love one another**, because it is the truest mark of our redeemed relationship and connection with GOD!

**Romans 5:8** shows how God loved us, imperfect people, demonstrated it and put it into action. Christ died for us to seek our highest good – forgiveness and love – and once we receive it, we are expected to give it to others too (**Luke 7:17**). Experience God’s love so you can love beyond the norm and see for yourself how **TRUE LOVE WINS!**

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

##### 1. Self-Check.

What did you learn today about TRUE LOVE? What do you have to UNLEARN about love?

##### 2. Setting It Right.

Are you loving in the eyes of your family? Ask them to rate you from 1– 10. 1 = you are unloving, 10 = you love like Jesus.

##### 3. Living It Out.

What must you START, STOP, and CONTINUE doing to be more loving?

#### WORKS

##### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for those you know who are feeling down and unloved that they will encounter God and be comforted in this season. Show them love by offering to pray for them or run an errand for them. Lastly, take advantage of opportunities to talk about Christ’s unconditional and sacrificial love to someone this week.

### 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  
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

### MEMORY VERSE

#### JOHN 13:34-35

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.