

TRUE LOVE WINS: LOVE LIKE JESUS

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

WORSHIP

Great Things, How Deep
The Father's Love For Us,
More Like Jesus

WELCOME

Who is your favorite love
team or "ideal couple"?
Why?

WORD

JOHN 15:12-17

¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. ¹⁷ This I command you, that you love one another."

Life is all about love. When people choose true love, they always choose right. Today, we'll talk about the most incredible love in this world and why we should live it out.

Our relationship with God and others must be anchored in love. That love has a model and example: Jesus Christ (**John 15:12**). Loving like Jesus will change our world for the better. It will make an eternal impact on the lives of others and bring glory to God.

Does this love comes naturally? **Galatians 5:22** says that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love. This is something we cannot do on our own power. Jesus wants us to learn how to love Him first (**Matthew 22:37, 39**) because He is the source of love because God is love. Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit will come, reside in, and empower us to do what is only possible if Jesus Himself were living in us. The Holy Spirit will lead and guide us to love like Jesus. We can live out the supernatural love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you are truly intimate with Jesus, your life will abound with love. His love will transform and move you to love like Him.

1. JESUS LOVES US UNCONDITIONALLY

Romans 5:6-8 describes us as helpless and ungodly. We were sinners yet Jesus still loved and accepted us the way we were. Who are we not to accept others the way He accepted us? We can't stop Jesus from loving us because His love is not based on what we do but based on who He is. Jesus loves us unconditionally and accepts us just as we are.

Jesus ministered to many people—the same people who will later crucify Him. He washed the feet of Judas who later betrayed him. He ministered to a Samaritan woman. He accepted everyone. We are to treat every human being with dignity and respect. Each person is special because they are a creation designed in the image of God. We must rid our hearts with racial prejudice, socio-economic standards, religious discrimination, and political preference. None of that should hinder us from loving others just like Jesus.

Accept one another as God has accepted us (**Romans 15:7**). But there is a difference between acceptance and approval. For example, Jesus didn't approve of the wrongdoing of the woman caught in adultery, but He loved her and accepted her just as she was. Likewise, we don't have to approve everything other people do but we can accept and love them unconditionally—the mark of true Christian love.

BE ACCEPTING.

2. JESUS LOVES US GENEROUSLY

Jesus lavished us with His love (**1 John 3:1**). His generous love is exorbitant, extravagant, goes way beyond what we expect.

His love is priceless and eternal. In **Psalms 136**, all 26 verses repeat "for His lovingkindness is everlasting" or "His love endures forever" (NIV). God is going to keep loving us no matter what.

4Ws TRUE LOVE WINS

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One of the most frequent words in the New Testament is “grace”, which refers to the generosity of Jesus. We receive what we don’t deserve. **2 Corinthians 8:9** proclaims the generous, overflowing, gracious love of Jesus. He became a man and died on the cross that we might share in His riches of glory in heaven.

How did Jesus show generous love to others? As He goes about His day fulfilling His mission He oftentimes gets interrupted; just like when He was on His way to healing Jairus’ daughter. A bleeding woman touched the hem of His robe. He stopped and used this moment to express His love to her. Jesus saw obstacles as unique opportunities to love intentionally and generously. We may have our own agenda but we ought to be gracious and be willing to be interrupted to express love to those who cross our path, not just neglect and ignore them.

Some Christians get into debate and disagreement with others. There are some who refuse to offer the gracious love of Jesus to those who disagree with them. They’ve ignored reconciliation. Our response is crucial. Don’t refuse to meet with those people you have disagreements with. Allow yourself to be open with them, meet with them, pray for and with them, and to reconcile with them. This is Christian love.

Do we deserve the generous love of Jesus? If not for the grace of God, we will be facing His wrath (**John 3:36**). Don’t take God’s grace for granted. God did not just give us a small amount of grace. He lavished us with His grace (**Ephesians 1:7-8**) out of His riches. He gives us the grace to know Him and to become more like Christ. We can be gracious like Jesus when we pray, care, and share with others. We should immerse our life in the love of Jesus so that we can pour and overflow His love into the lives of others.

BE GRACIOUS.

3. JESUS LOVES US SACRIFICIALLY

John 15:13 tells us that Jesus loves us sacrificially. The agape love of God is perfectly seen on the cross of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gives those who are truly His, the ability to sacrifice our lives, or deny ourselves (**1 John 3:16**). Literally dying for others’ sins accomplishes nothing. However, when we selflessly choose others before us makes all the difference.

Loving like Jesus comes with a great price: a cost of selfless sacrifice. Talk is cheap if it is not accompanied with action (**1 John 3:17-18**). Sacrificial love is going out of our way to help those who are less fortunate in every way with no strings attached. Loving yet expecting nothing in return is expressing selfless love.

BE SELFLESS.

People will come closer to God when we are accepting, generous, and selfless. Let the love of Jesus be in you so you can love like Jesus!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Self-Check.

What’s one specific way you have experienced God’s unconditional love in your life?

2. Setting It Right.

How does the way God thinks about you change the way you think about yourself?

3. Living It Out.

In the midst of crisis, with limited physical access, how will you extend “love like Jesus” to others?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people searching for love to find true love in Jesus and through us. Put into action the love of Jesus by expressing your love to others in different forms (love languages). Share the good news (gospel) of the unconditional, generous, and sacrificial love of 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
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 15:12

This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.