



What Are You Known For?

We all long and look for love, but because we look for love in the wrong places, many of us have been disillusioned, discouraged, and disappointed. God created us to receive love and to give love. If we want to experience and be known for true love, we must follow God's standard because He is Love and He is the Author of love.

Counter-intuitive

Love is more than just a feeling. It has something to do with the will — it is a command! Jesus tells us in John 13:34-35 to “love one another” in the same way that He loved us. Jesus loved us unconditionally, selflessly laying His own life for us to seek our highest good. Love is the mark of spiritual maturity. God wants us to understand that loving Him and loving one another is the best display of spiritual maturity, which is CHRISTLIKENESS. In fact, when we are given the task to do “witnessing” or to share 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. May people see Jesus more in us as we love one another!

Conscious

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.

Considerate

Our natural mode is selfishness, but true love requires us to be considerate. Philippians 2:3-4 tells us to “do nothing from selfishness and empty conceit”, and that the secret is “humility” and “regarding others as more important than ourselves”. True love is to honor or treasure others (Romans 12:9-10). In the family, both parents and children, husband and wife, must consider one another's need for honor, respect, care, and provision! This is applied even to discipleship gatherings, especially when

this week's memory verse

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Luke 6:27-28

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we interact with people who have yet to know Jesus. We are to “speak truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15) and let all that we do be done in love (1 Cor. 16:14) – in schools, in offices, and our homes.

Christ-centered

True love is supernatural; it is beyond our power. 1 John 4:19 is clear: we can only love like Jesus because He first loved us! Galatians 5:22 includes love as fruit of the Holy Spirit; it is the work of God in our lives. Love is not just a proof of our salvation, but also the overflow of God’s presence in our lives. We are distributors or conduits – 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 we can love beyond the norm and see for ourselves how TRUE LOVE WINS!

discussion questions

What did you learn today about true love? What do you have to unlearn about love?

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

What must you stop / start / continue doing to be more loving?

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