



# Love Like JESUS

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 and will make an eternal impact on the lives of others and bring glory to God — but this love does not come naturally. It is something we cannot do on our own power. We are to love Jesus first (Matthew 22:37, 39) as He is the source of love because God is love. If we are truly intimate with Jesus, our life will abound with love. His love, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will transform and enable us to love like Him.

## **Jesus Loves Us Unconditionally**

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. Romans 5:6-8 describes us as helpless and ungodly, but Jesus' love is not based on what we do — it's based on who He is. He loves us unconditionally and accepts us just as we are.

To love unconditionally like Jesus is to rid our hearts with racial prejudice, socio-economic standards, religious discrimination, and political preference. We are to accept one another as God has accepted us (Romans 15:7). However, there is a difference between acceptance and approval. 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.

## **Jesus Loves Us Generously**

Jesus lavished us with His love (1 John 3:1). His generous love is exorbitant, extravagant, and goes way beyond what we expect. His love is priceless and eternal. 2 Corinthians 8:9 proclaims the generous, overflowing, gracious love of Jesus, exemplified when 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

### **this week's memory verse**

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.”

ACTS 8:35

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, and not just neglect and ignore them. 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.

## 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, it 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. May the love of Jesus reign in our hearts so we can love like Him!

### discussion questions

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

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

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

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**Sundays**

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

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