

# WHEN LOVE IS HARD

## LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Living the full life is so counterintuitive, especially for followers of Christ. The focus is not on self, but on others. In John 13:34-35, Jesus commands His disciples to LOVE ONE ANOTHER because this is the mark of a true believer and follower of Christ. His heart's prayer is for all of God's children to have unity regardless of differences so that others would believe Him by their words, deeds, and love for one another (John 17:20-21). But WHEN LOVE IS HARD, what do we do? In Romans Chapter 14, we see three steps we can take to love people even when it's difficult.

### ACCEPT (ROMANS 14:1-6)

The Roman church was a mixture of Jewish and Gentile believers who came from different backgrounds with their own set of traditions and habits that they carried into their Christian life. The apostle Paul reminds the Roman believers to accept one another and not treat each other with contempt for individual differences, such as not eating certain food or for considering certain days more sacred than others. This is because all of them have been received and accepted by God. God is at work in all His children's lives, and He will complete the work He started in them. Changing people is God's department, not ours.

Biblical acceptance is loving and respecting the person as is, where is. It is not embracing values or lifestyle choices that are against the word and will of God. This tells us that there are "ESSENTIAL" truths about our faith that we must agree on completely without compromise such as salvation through faith, the deity of Jesus, and the authority God's Word. And then there are the "NON-ESSENTIAL" things that the Bible does not speak clearly on where we can have more liberty of opinions such as when Jesus will come, style of worship, stand on healing, baptism, and day of Sabbath. We are not to fight over the "non-essentials". Our part is to do all things for the Lord, accept others, and trust in Him to move in our lives and those around us.

### ABSTAIN FROM JUDGING (ROMANS 14:7-12)

As we are God's followers, we are His responsibility. This truth, while very comforting, also requires us to be very careful in how we live. One day, we will stand before the judgment seat of God. He will hold us accountable. It is in light of this truth that Paul urges the Roman believers not to judge each other. 1 Corinthians 4:5 tells us who the real Judge is – it is God, the only One who sees the minds and hearts of people. Today, we judge each other in many ways, like when we listen to only one side of the story or judge a person's motives by their actions and behavior. Rather than judging others which promotes division, we are to do our part to try to understand each other, clarify issues, and initiate reconciliation.

### AVOID BEING A STUMBLING BLOCK (ROMANS 14:13-18)

Paul gives us a clear command not to put a stumbling block or an obstacle along the path of fellow believers. If something we do would make others stumble, we must limit our freedom to engage in such activity so that these still-growing Christians will not stumble. In our hearts we say, "Others may, but I will not"; "I limit my liberty for the sake of God's kingdom"; "I must be responsible for my brothers". Jesus warns us in Matthew 18:6 that if we cause someone to stumble, for example by living a life of hypocrisy, we destroy someone else's walk. We must live our life in such a way that it builds others up and draws them even closer to God.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you usually do when you find it hard to love someone?
- Have you ever been a stumbling block to someone? How did you resolve the matter?
- What should you START and STOP doing?

## LAST WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.  
ROMANS 14:17

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online!

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Download [this Sunday's 4Ws Small Groups Guide](#) and [4Ws Go Viral Edition](#) every Monday!

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# step into the COMMUNITY!

Fellowship and learn together with believers at the same life stage as you!

## Women2Women

ALL WOMEN

## THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 1, Thursday, 10:00 AM

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

-  ccfwomen2women
-  CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

## B1G Ministry

SINGLES

## NO BIG FRIDAYS TO MAKE WAY FOR BIG16.

-   B1GMinistry
-  beonewithgod

## Elevate

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

## CLASS MEET

### REAL PEOPLE, REAL STORIES

December 3, Saturday, 3:00 PM, MPH

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

-  ElevateMain
-  ElevateMainTV

## NXTGEN

KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

## KIDS' CHURCH THE BIG ADVENTURE GAMES

Sundays, 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM  
G/F North Wing, CCF Center

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

-   ccfnxtgen for ages 4-12
-  for ages 7-12

## JOIN AN ONLINE SMALL GROUP FOR KIDS!

Contact the NXTGEN team:

-    ccfnxtgen

## JOIN US ON SUNDAYS

AT CCF CENTER  
10:00 AM (English),  
3:00 PM (Filipino)

ONLINE  
10:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM  
 ccf.org.ph  ccfmain  ccfmainTV

## JOIN US ON TV AND RADIO

Visit [ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels/](http://ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels/) for the list of broadcast TV channels and radio stations.

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Your belief and investment in the next generation can change lives and always go a long way!



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## LEARN MORE

about the faith!

Grow deeper in your spiritual walk and join Bible study classes by GLC.

## SIGN-UP AND JOIN GLC TRAINING TODAY!

### GLC Level 1 Face-to-Face

Sundays at 1:00 PM

- Book 1: One by One, Room 3A
- Book 3: The Holy Spirit, Room 2A
- *Book 4: CCF DNA starts November 27*

### GLC Level 1 — Zoom Cycle 3

November 30, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

- Book 1: One by One
- Book 3: The Holy Spirit
- Book 4: CCF DNA

### GLC Level 2 — Zoom Cycle

Book 6: Basic Doctrines  
Session 3: Jesus, His Person and Works  
December 1, Thursday, 7:30 PM

### GLC Level 3 Lead — Zoom Cycle

Discipline and Restoration,  
Sessions 1 and 2

December 1, Thursday, 7:30 PM

Go to [bit.ly/GLCTraining2022](http://bit.ly/GLCTraining2022) to register



## EARLY BIRD RATES END **DECEMBER 31!**

Get your tickets now!  
Drop by the 2/F lobby booth

## Avail of the discounted rate when you register for your CCF Commitment Card!

register at the 2/F lobby booth  
or at [smallgroups.ccf.org.ph](http://smallgroups.ccf.org.ph)

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS? THINK YOUR VISIT IS A COINCIDENCE? YOUR BEING HERE TODAY IS NO ACCIDENT!

## God brought you here for His purpose.

### 1 God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments —Deuteronomy 7:9*

### 2 God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

*Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. — Romans 3:23*

### 3 God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. — Romans 5:8*

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. — John 14:6*

### 4 God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. — John 3:16*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8-9*

### 5 God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

*And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13*