

Love Radically

The book of James uncovers the profound truth that genuine love is not merely a sentiment but a dynamic force that compels us to actively demonstrate compassion, kindness, and selflessness towards others. Love, in its truest form, is manifested through tangible acts of service and care, echoing James' call to faith that works through radical love.

Love God Through Trials

James, writing to the dispersed believers in the early church, has some difficult words to share. He urges them to "persevere under trial" amid great persecution (James 1:12). You might find yourself in challenging situations, questioning why God allows such trials, especially when you're earnestly following Him. Experiencing trials that stem from sin is a different matter. What James was addressing were trials experienced by those who loved God. Trials serve as tests of our perseverance. Some new followers of Christ mistakenly believe accepting Him as Savior and Lord shields them from difficulties. However, as we persevere, God promises us the "crown of life", which is eternal life with Him in heaven. The prerequisite for this blessing is loving God. To embrace radical love, we must first love God through trials. We don't seek out trials to prove our love; rather, we demonstrate our love for God as we persevere. And when trials come, we're called to endure with the assurance that blessings await as we continue following Him.

Love Others More than Yourself

Have you ever pondered why James refers to the command to "love your neighbor as yourself" as the "royal law" (James 2:8)? It's the only mention of this term in the Bible, used by James to underscore that this command, coming from the King, is of utmost importance. As believers and His children, we are called to heed it. There's significant emphasis on loving others as ourselves, as demonstrated by the King Himself. Jesus said that the entire Law and Prophets hinge on these two great commandments (Matthew 22:39-40)! Does this mean we must prioritize self-love before loving others? Not at all! We are in fact cautioned against being lovers of self (2 Timothy 3:2). However, this doesn't mean that we ought to stop caring for our bodies which serve as the temple of the Holy Spirit. Jesus grew "in stature and in spirit." But are we

excessively focused on ourselves — our needs, wants, and desires — over others? Paul urges us to consider others as more important than ourselves (Philippians 2:3); this isn't ordinary advice, it's radical!

Love Sacrificially

Love entails "an unconditional commitment towards imperfect people for their highest good, which often requires sacrifice." Do we prioritize others over ourselves? Do we actively seek opportunities for others to encounter Jesus? Ponder practical ways to do this at home, work, or school. In the church, let's not be mere consumers, always seeking what we can gain. Instead, let's strive to serve God and others. As Christians, radical love prompts us to ask: How can I serve others? How can I serve You here, God? Even in heaven, our service continues. A genuine follower of Christ seeks to serve the Lord as He wills.

Are we all-talk by asking, "What can I pray for you?" We need to be reminded that while prayer is vital, if we can help someone practically but refrain due to personal cost, we're merely talk (James 2:15-16). At the core of radical love is demonstrating it through sacrificial acts. We might struggle to give materially as we fear lack and scarcity. Yet, as an African tribal chief once said to a Christian missionary offering a gift from his tribe's meager provisions, "No one is too poor to give or too rich to receive." Randy Alcorn prompts us to ask not, "How much can I keep?" but "How much more can I give?" Whenever we grow complacent in our giving, it's time to increase it again.

Love Through Life-Giving Words

Finally, James asserts that while no one can tame the tongue, it shouldn't be so among us (James 2:8-10). We must love through life-giving words (Proverbs 18:21). Let's speak words of life to our families, friends, and everyone we encounter. We all carry heart wounds, but through the power of the gospel and with God's help, we can heal and bless others. Jesus' brother James initially doubted Him, but a post-resurrection encounter transformed him into a leader in the early church (James 1:1). To love radically, we need God's radical love for us.

Last Week's Memory Verse

If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

JAMES 2:8

Discuss This Message

What trials are you going through and how can you love God through this?

How can you love others more?

What sacrifices do you need to make to love more?

What life words should you start using?
Towards whom?

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WOMEN2WOMEN

ALL WOMEN

Become a Transformed Woman Session 4: Run the Race with Endurance

with Joy Mendoza

March 7, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

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 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

B1G MINISTRY

SINGLES

Seasons of Love

March 8, Friday, 7:30 PM, MPH

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NXTGEN

KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

Love Detectives

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

ONSITE: G/F CCF Center for ages 4-12

LIVESTREAM: YouTube & Facebook

(ccfnxtgen) for ages 4 to 12

ZOOM: for ages 7-12, message us to sign-up

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WOMEN LIVING FREE

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FOR WOMEN SEEKING ANSWERS
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God's Design for Women

March 6, Wednesday, 7:00 PM on Zoom

contact (0917) 545 9219 or

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March 3, 2024, TODAY

at 10:30 AM, Room 2A

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March 3, 2024, TODAY

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- Book 2: Spiritual Disciplines

GLC Level 1 — Zoom

March 6, 2024, Wednesday at 7:30 PM

- Book 1: One-by-One

- Book 2: Spiritual Disciplines

GLC Level 2 — Face-to-Face

March 3, 2024, TODAY

at 1:00 PM, Room 3A

- Book 5: Dgroup 101

GLC Level 2 — Zoom

March 7, 2024, Thursday at 7:30 PM

- Book 5: Dgroup 101

GLC Level 3 Lead — Face-to-Face

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at 1:00 PM, Room 4A

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GLC Level 3 Lead — Zoom

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YOU BEING HERE IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

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*

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

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

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

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your help, I will turn away from my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior and my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of new person You want me to be. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.

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



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sundays

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