

Sermon: “Love: It’s Not What You Feel It Is”

I. Love is the most powerful witness in the world for Christ.

John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

II. Love is a non-optional mark of genuine saving faith.

I John 3:14 “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers.”

III. Since God Is Love, *He* tells us what Love truly is.

A. Love is a command we are commanded to obey.

John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another.”

I John 3:23 “And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.”

B. Love is an act of our free will, choosing to give to others to bless them; not merely giving only in order to get.

Ephesians 5:2 “Live a life of **love**, just as Christ loved us and *gave* himself up for us.”

Galatians 2:20 “The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who **loved** me and *gave* himself for me.”

Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ loved** the church and *gave* himself up for her

John 3:16 “For God **so loved** the world that *he gave* his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

God’s Word explains that Love is giving and doing whatever will be in the best interest of and bless another person, with no expectation of anything in return.

- What about romance?
- What about loving our enemies?

Luke 6:35 “But **love** your **enemies**, *do good* to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”

Romans 12:20 “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, *give* him something to drink.”

C. Love takes the initiative

I John 4:10 “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

D. Loving does not depend on the worthiness of its object

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

IV. Who is the King of Love? It is Jesus.

A portrait of Jesus: I Corinthians Chapter 13