

LAF #1 – LOVE

John 13:34,35; 1John 3:14; 4:7,8

05/01/2022

Sunday a.m.

SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

SLIDE 2 – LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, & FORGIVENESS

- Christ followers/Hillsiders minimal guarantee:
 - **LOVE** – unconditional, w/o strings ‘love as a choice’ (vs. b/c we feel it); in every circumstance, no exceptions
 - **ACCEPTANCE** – you will be received with love, dignity, & grace
 - **FORGIVENESS** – no matter how you’ve sinned/fallen, God’s forgiveness is available for the asking

SLIDE 3 – LOVE ≠ LICENSE

SLIDE 4 – ACCEPTANCE ≠ AGREEMENT

SLIDE 5 – FORGIVENESS ≠ COMPROMISE

- Each week I’ll tackle one of these (LAF) & also the qualifiers/working definitions

SLIDE 6 – LOVE = AGAPAO – ah-gah-PAH-oh – VERB – HS not natural ability

- 4 words for love in Greek – **STORGE** – family; **PHILEO** – brotherly/close friendships; **EROS** – romantic; **AGAPE** – unconditional, sacrificing, selfless
 - AGAPE LOVE = love like God; choice (vs. feeling) to want/pursue God’s best for others → choice, then acquaintance; fueled by HS, not ability

SLIDE 7 – JOHN 13:34,35

SLIDE 8 – LOVE ONE ANOTHER *A NEW COMMANDMENT

- John 13 – Last Supper – Christ issues His New Commandment – BIG DEAL
 - Love one another – as I have loved you, you **MUST** love one another
 - **BY THIS** everyone will know you are My disciples

SLIDE 9 – 1JOHN 3:14

SLIDE 10 – LOVE OTHERS = FROM DEATH TO LIFE

- John the Beloved – the **evidence** that we have moved from death to life is we **LOVE** each other

SLIDE 11 – 1JOHN 4:7,8

SLIDE 12 – LOVE OTHERS = YOU KNOW GOD

- Love is FROM/flows out OF God; love others = BORN of God & KNOW God
- Litmus test for the Christ-follower: IF born of/know God, then agapao

SLIDE 13 – LOVE IS NOT LICENSE

- AGAPAO – LOVE is a verb... We can be fearful to love like this → like it gives implicit agreement & endorsement, permission to keep on in destructive, counterproductive behavior
- License – *to grant authoritative permission; permission to do/not do something*
 - Not endorsing behaviors, lifestyle, saying “that’s ok, do whatever”
 - Think of this as tough love, saying no to self-destructive, self-centered, death dealing behaviors;

SLIDE 14 – JESUS & THE WOMAN

- **Examples – John 8:2-11** – woman caught in adultery & Christ’s response

SLIDE 15 – JESUS & THE RICH MAN

- **Mark 10:17-23** – Rich young man – what must I do to inherit eternal life?

SLIDE 16 – JESUS & HIS DISCIPLES

- **Matthew 9:9-13** – the call of Matthew; leave what you’re doing/how you’re living & follow Me; I came to call sinners, not the righteous – THIS is the one!
 - Many tax collectors & sinners reclining at the table; many *followed* Him
- **John 13:34,35** – love one another as I love you
 - Implicit in call for discipleship is agapao, talmidim/follow in His footsteps, correction/redirection, shaping

SLIDE 17 – SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE

- **Ephesians 4:11-16** – TRUTH IN LOVE = powerful, growth, discipleship
- Love as a powerful, transforming, shaping force → to aim for God’s best for each other as we follow Christ
- **Standing FOR, standing AGAINST** –

SLIDE 18 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

- What do we take away as the ‘point’? Life application?
- What does it look like, lived out, to LOVE people in this way? Disciple

SLIDE 19 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace.” So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”*