

# 01/18/26 Message

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Part of What Does God Want

January 17, 2026

**Message: God Wants You to Love**

**Series: What Does God Want**

## Background

Ask yourself, what does God want from me?

- This year
- Today
- Right Now

*When we ask ourselves that, we're seeking the heart and will of God. And when we ask with intention we're asking with the intention we will change to be and do what God wants. And when we ask with that intention, God will answer your question. He will reveal things to you that you'd never know, maybe things you've never even thought of before. What does God want from you this year, today, right now?*

—Pastor Chad

This series stems from a verse found in the OT:

***Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV)***

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to Him, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

## Who is Your Neighbor

***Mark 12:30 (NLT)***

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.

Jesus wants your heart because He wants you to love Him with all your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength, He wants it all! But He

doesn't stop there...

### **Mark 12:31 (NLT)**

The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these.

The word neighbor comes from the Greek word *plasion* and it literally means those close to you.

One of the experts in religious law heard this and asked...

### **Luke 10:29**

The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Read the story found in **Luke 10:30-37**

## **Why Show Love**

- Love is the evidence of FAITH

### **John 13:35 (NIV)**

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

It comes down to proof.

- Faith is PROVEN by love

## **What Does Love Look Like**

- Love changes how we TREAT people
- We should love them without expecting ANYTHING in return.

*You do this by accepting others, even when they're different from you; even when you don't approve of how they live or what they do. Accepting others. You do this by supporting others, even when you don't think you have anything to offer to help them, or even when you think they are where they are because of their own actions or intentions. You support them anyway. It means you speak to them affectionately, even when you have never met them before, or if you know them, but you wouldn't speak*

*to them otherwise. That word affectionately means warmly, kindly, tenderly, caringly, and lovingly... It's hard for men to do that - but it wasn't hard for Jesus. Again, your heart, or His? If it's His heart, it's not hard to do things He'd do when you connect with Him. We could dive deeper, but the core principle remains, God wants you to love people without expecting anything in return and not just to love them but show your love for them without expecting anything in return.*

—Pastor Chad

- Love changes how we treat people. That kind of love looks like JESUS

It's not a feeling, a preference, or a personality trait, it's a choice. Jesus didn't just say, "I love you" - He lived it out.

### **1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)**

16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

17 "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"

18 "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

## **Diagnostic Questions for Love**

- Who do you love when it costs you
- How do you treat people who disagree with you
- Do you love only those who love you back
- Does your faith change how you treat the least, the lost, and the difficult

### **1 John 4:19 (NIV)**

We love because He first loved us.

*Today, don't just ask do I believe? Ask, does my life show it? God wants you to love those you encounter in the every day, ordinary flow of life, everyone in your path. Because love is the evidence of faith!*

—*Pastor Chad*