

Be Different Part 3: What is Love?

Objective: To help us understand what love is and how we can love others the way Jesus loves us.

Read together:

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. 11 They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

I Peter 3:8-11

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

I Corinthians 13:4-8

- Why do you think people have such a hard time defining/explaining what love is? How would you define love?
- Do you think we really have a hard time understanding what love is or do we just have a hard time living it out?
- Matt said that God’s love is ‘unconditional’. What does unconditional love look like? How does God express unconditional love for us?
- When you think of ‘selfless love’ what do you think of? Obviously God showed His unconditional love to us through the cross. How can we show unconditional love to others?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word ‘relentless’? How is God’s love for us a relentless love? How does it make you feel to know that God is willing to pursue you? How should that impact the way you live your life?
- What does counter-cultural love look like today? How can followers of Jesus be countercultural in their expression of love to others?

Final Thought: If you will begin to love others the way Jesus loves you, it will be VERY different from what the world is used to. This week how can you show God’s amazing love to the people you encounter?

