Be Different Part 8: Getting it Right

Objective: To challenge us to engage in loving others as a display of their love for God.

Read together:

Finally, all of you, be <u>like-minded</u>, be <u>sympathetic</u>, <u>love</u> one another, be <u>compassionate</u> and <u>humble</u>. 9 <u>Do not repay evil</u> with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, <u>repay evil with blessing</u>, 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 <u>deceitful speech</u>. 11 They must turn from evil and do good; they must <u>seek peace</u> and pursue it.

I Peter 3:8-11

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to <u>look after orphans</u> and <u>widows</u> in their distress and to <u>keep oneself</u> from being <u>polluted</u> by the world.

James 1:27

Seek <u>first</u> his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

- What does it mean to you if you're 'getting it right' in your faith?
- When you hear the word RELIGION, what do you think of? How would you describe GOOD RELIGION?
- When it comes to religion, why do you think we tend to drift towards rules (lists of do's and don'ts)?
- If 'doing good' isn't what causes God to love and accept us, why should we bother to put so much emphasis on it?
- The pastor said, "Getting it right is more than just avoiding the wrong. It's loving people like Jesus did." Which do you think is easier, NOT DOING the list of 'bad things' we should avoid or loving people like Jesus? Why do you think so?

Have someone read Matthew 22:37-40.

"<u>Love</u> the Lord your <u>God</u> with all your <u>heart</u> and with all your <u>soul</u> and with all your <u>mind</u>.' 38This is the first and greatest commandment. 39And the second is like it: <u>Love</u> your <u>neighbor as</u> <u>yourself</u>.' 40All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-40

- What does it look like to love God with all your HEART all your SOUL and all your STRENGTH?
- What does it look like to love your neighbor as your self?
- How would that kind of religion stand out as different from everything else the world sees about the church?

Final Thought: As you encounter people in your home and community this week, ask yourself, "How can I love them the way Jesus does?"

