

Finishing Strong

July 25 -Summer Series - part 2 of 3

Loving Others is Jesus

“This is what I command you: Love each other as I have loved you.”
John 15:12 erv

We are told to do what should be natural to us as Believers.

Love God and love others (Jesus).

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbor the same as you love yourself (**Matthew 22:37-39 erv**).
- *“...when we obey God’s teaching, his love is truly working in us. This is how we know that we are living in him. ⁶If we say we live in God, we must live the way Jesus lived” (1 John 2:5-6 erv).*

God designed us to live a life that would bear His image.

God is light:

- *“So God created humans in His own image. He created them to be like himself.” (Genesis 1:27 erv).*
- *God is light, and in him there is no darkness. ⁶So if we say that we share in life with God, but we continue living in darkness, we are liars, who don’t follow the truth (1 John 1:5-7 erv).*
 - *“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never live in darkness. They will have the light that gives life.’” (John 8:12 erv).*
- Jesus was a life-giver through His life example of loving sacrifice, creating hope and joy among those around Him, who love Him.

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God is love:

- *“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them” (1 John 4:16b NIV).*
- *“⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:7-8 NIV).*
- *“²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.” (1 John 4:21 NIV).*
- *“We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.” (1 John 4:19-20 NIV).*
- **1 John 3:16-18 erv**
“¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus gave his life for us. So we should give our lives for each other as our brothers and sisters.”

“¹⁷ Suppose a believer who is rich enough to have all the necessities of life sees a fellow believer who is poor and does not have even basic needs. What if the rich believer does not help the poor one? Then it is clear that God’s love is not in that person’s heart.”

“¹⁸ My children, our love should not be only words and talk. No, our love must be real. We must show our love by the things we do.”

So, what if we are not living this way?

1 John 2:1 erv

“My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have Jesus to help us.”

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1 John 2:2 erv

“Jesus is the way our sins are taken away. And He is the way all people can have their sins taken away too.

1 John 2:3 erv

“If we obey what God has told us to do, then we are sure that we know Him.”

1 John 3:7-8 erv

“⁷ Dear children, don’t let anyone lead you into the wrong way. Christ always did what was right. So to be good like Christ, you must do what is right. ⁸ The devil has been sinning since the beginning. Anyone who continues to sin belongs to the devil. The Son of God came for this: to destroy the devil’s work.”

1 John 3:9-10 erv

“⁹ Those who are God’s children do not continue to sin, because the new life God gave them stays in them. They cannot keep sinning, because they have become children of God. ¹⁰ So we can see who God’s children are and who the devil’s children are. These are the ones who are not God’s children: those who don’t do what is right and those who do not love their brothers and sisters in God’s family.”

⁹ Someone might say, “I am in the light,” but if they hate any of their brothers or sisters in God’s family, they are still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Those who love their brothers and sisters live in the light, and there is nothing in them that will make them do wrong. ¹¹ But whoever hates their brother or sister is in darkness. They live in darkness. They don’t know where they are going, because the darkness has made them blind.

*¹² I write to you, dear children,
because your sins are forgiven through Christ.*

1 John 2:9-12 erv