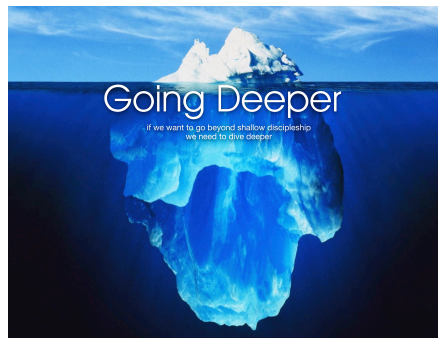


# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

### Make Love the Measure of Maturity

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
November 7, 2021



### What do you think is the defining characteristic of a mature follower of Jesus Christ?

John 13:35 (NLT) "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

1 Peter 4:8 (NIV) "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

1 Corinthians 14:1 (NIV) "Make love your highest goal"

- **Loving well is the defining characteristic of a mature Christian.**

- **The incarnation of Jesus Christ is the model, motive, means, & method for loving well.**

- **Jesus is our model for love.**

1 John 4:7-10 (NLT) Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. <sup>10</sup> This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

- **Jesus is our motive for love.**

1 John 4:11-12 (NLT) Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

- **Jesus is our means for love.**

1 John 4:13-19 (NLT) And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. <sup>14</sup> Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup> All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. <sup>16</sup> We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. <sup>17</sup> And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. <sup>18</sup> Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. <sup>19</sup> We love each other because he loved us first.

- **Jesus gives us our method for love.**

1 John 4:20-21 If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? <sup>21</sup> And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

### How does the incarnation show us the method to love well?

#### 1) We enter another's world.

*"Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable." Theologian David Augsburger*

- Listening well is loving well.
- We speak respectfully
- We speak honestly.
- We speak clearly.
- We speak in a timely fashion.

#### 2) We hold on to self.

#### 3) We live in the tension between two worlds.

**Who is God asking you to love well and what steps do you need to take?**

**Big Idea: Experience the love of Christ and then choose to extend it to others.**

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service is from the New Living Translation (NLT) and TheNew International Version (NIV).*



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**Make Love the Measure of Maturity**  
**#5 of 7 - November 7, 2021**

- 1) Last week we looked at Psalm 42 and addressed the issue of grief and loss. We learned that God can give us gifts through our grief and loss when we look to Him in faith. Where did you see God working in your life in this regard this past week? How did your action step go? How has the ACTS and Listening Prayer exercises gone for you?
- 2) Read 1 John 4:7-21 What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passage? What interesting details do you observe? Is anything repeated? What questions come up about the passage? What surprises you in the passage? Are there connecting words or ideas?
- 4) **Meaning:** What meaning is inferred in this passage and what does this tell us about God and His love for us? What implications does this have for followers of Christ? What does it look like to receive God's love and to love well?
- 5) Why is love the measure of Christian maturity?
- 6) **Application:** How does this passage call on you to change the way you live? Take a moment to pray and listen to the Holy Spirit. What is God asking you to do in regard to receiving His love and loving well?
- 7) What will you do this week as a result of this teaching? What aspect of this teaching do you need to pass on to others?



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