

ATTITUDE SHIFT - Love

Ice-breaker: Recount for the group the first time you “fell in love.” What was his/her name, what age were you?

A counter-cultural call to an attitude shift regarding authentic love...

In your own words, define love.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. (Rom. 12:9)

My love for those who are for me...

- ***Selfless in motive*** – “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” (vv. 10-11)
- ***Persistent in adversity*** – “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” (v. 12)
- ***Engaged in real needs*** – “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” (v. 13)

Which of the three points above in dealing with “those who are for me (friends and family) do you lack? Which of the three do you excel?

My love for those who are around me...

- ***Counter-cultural and flexible*** – “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” (vv. 14-15)
- ***Peaceful and unbiased*** – “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.” (v. 16)

How would you label your group/demographic of people to whom you belong? Does that group/demographic keep you from engaging other groups/demographics? How and why?

My love for those who are against me...

Read Luke 6:32, 35-36

- ***Does not fight fire with fire*** – “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.” (v. 17)
- ***Makes peace a priority*** – “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” (v. 18)
- ***Lets God be God*** – “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay.’” (v. 19)
- ***Overpowers evil with grace*** – “On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (vv. 20-21)

Loving your enemies is a Christian virtue unmatched in society or among other religions. First, identify your enemies. Next, on a scale of 1-5, how well do you love them? Last, what would it look to apply at least one of the four bullets above?

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:7b-8)

As a group, pray for the strength and wisdom to implement the item above that most convicted you in this study. After, refer back at your opening definition of love, what would you change now that you have gone through Romans 12?