



## **Week 2- “Love?”**

**In our culture there are so many versions, ideas, and interpretations of what a Christian is supposed to be, and so often Christians do not look anything like Jesus. In this series we are looking at what a Christian should actually look like. In this week’s message we look at what it really means to love your neighbor.**

1. Last week we were challenged to ask ourselves if we were “dead” Christians, acknowledging that we do not have what it takes on our own to be like Jesus, but instead trusting Him to work in us. What was it like to process this? Did it free you from trying to do all the right things or is this something you are still wrestling with?

2. Why do you think it seems easier to live Christianity out through practical steps you can do instead of trusting that Christ is in you and He has already given you what you need to live this out?

**In the message, Justin shared this quote, “You have died with Christ. You have been raised with Christ. You are united with Christ. Now LIVE like who you are. Live in accordance with who He has made you to be. You are new and no longer what you once were. Live like it is true.”**

3. What do you think it means to live like you have been made new in Christ?

### **Read Matthew 22:35-39**

4. How do you think people outside of the church would say that those inside of the church have done with the command to love your neighbor as yourself?

**John 13:34-35 says, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Jesus was the perfect example of this by loving people that others hated like tax collectors, adulterers, lepers, and even those who were crucifying him.”**

5. Jesus never took a stand against people who were different, instead He loved them. Why do we constantly feel like we need to defend our personal beliefs by standing up against those that think differently than we do?

6. How would our relationships with those around us be different if we asked Jesus to help us love them the way He does?

**Read Matthew 5:43-48**

7. Jesus said that we will look like a Christian when we pray for and love our enemies. Think of one of your enemies. What do you think would happen in your heart if you prayed for them on a regular basis?

8. We currently live in a culture where having a different opinion around politics can cause you to become enemies with someone who thinks differently than you. How would trusting Christ in you help you put others above the opinions and needs you have?

9. The reality is that we do not have what it takes to be a perfect Christian, but we can trust Jesus to make us more like Him. When we put our trust in Jesus we love others not because we have to but because it is who we are. How does this truth give you hope in living this out?

11. This week will you ask yourself: Where do I put my needs, freedoms, and opinions above the needs of others?

As you process this question will you take the step to:

- Pray for a personal enemy or political figure you disagree with.
- Ask God to reveal to you where love is missing.
- Pray for Christ to form His love in your heart.

**In and of ourselves we will never have what it takes to love others as Christ loves us. It will always be tainted with our imperfect human nature. When we can acknowledge this and humbly get out of the way and ask Him to help us, then His Spirit and love can lead in truly loving those around us.**