



JANUARY 11, 2026 | Pastor Eric Smith

Jesus Changes Everything *Love on Display Clears the Way*

INTRODUCTION:

What if there is one practice that has the power to shape every relationship in your life? One practice that opens the way to deeper connection with God, healthier relationships with others, and a clearer witness of Christ through you. What if putting love on display clears the way to all these things and more? Let's see how Scripture reveals where love begins, how it is perfectly expressed in Jesus, how it transforms the way we relate to one another, and how it allows the light of Christ to shine through us for the glory of God.

BIG IDEA:

Love on display clears the way - to God, to one another, and to gospel witness.

1. LOVE ON DISPLAY CLEARS THE WAY TO GOD

1 John 4:7-10 NLT

7 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. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 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. 10 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.

- Love on display **begins** with God (1 John 4:7- 8)
- Jesus is the supreme expression of God's love on display (1 John 4:9)
- Love must be *received* before it can be *reflected* (1 John 4:10)

2. LOVE ON DISPLAY CLEARS THE WAY BETWEEN US

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 NLT

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud
5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it
keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about
injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never
gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures
through every circumstance.

- Love on display **transforms** how we relate (1 Corinthians 13:4–7)

3. LOVE ON DISPLAY CLEARS THE WAY FOR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO SHINE THRU YOU

Matthew 5:14-16 NLT

14 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that
cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under
a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives
light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good
deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your
heavenly Father.

Discussion & Application Questions

1. How has receiving the love of God through Christ changed your life?
2. Where are you most tempted to define love by feelings rather than actions?
3. Which description of love in 1 Corinthians 13 challenges you most right now - and why?
4. What does it look like for you to lower your rights in a current relationship?
5. Is there a hurt or offense you've been keeping a record of that love calls you to release?
6. If you practiced intentional, visible love for the next seven days, which relationship would change first? How and why?