REDEMPTION CITY CHURCH

Week #3 Abide in Love Experiencing & Expressing God's Love

John 15:9-17



STICKY STATEMENT: Until you've been LOVED BY Jesus, you'll never LOVE LIKE Jesus.

AGAPĒ = love that gives itself away for the good of someone else, whether they deserve it, return it, or even notice it.

"JUST AS" *(kathōs)* — love flows DOWN before it flows OUT: Father → Son → you → through you to others. (vv. 9, 12)

Receiving God's love isn't selfish. It's survival. Breathe in His love, then breathe it out onto others.

3 POWERFUL WAYS TO ABIDE IN HIS LOVE, I <u>EXPERIENCE</u> IT SO I CAN <u>EXPRESS</u> IT…

1. EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE THAT _____ ME, SO I CAN EXPRESS _____ TO OTHERS. (John 4; John 8)

"Accept one another, then, <u>just as</u> Christ accepted you." (Rom. 15:7)

ACCEPT *(proslambánō)* = to welcome someone into your home. Not tolerating from across the room. Pulling up a chair and saying, "You belong at this table."

"[4] Now <u>he had to go</u> through Samaria…and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. "John 4:4,6

EXPERIENCE IT: Name the well you keep going back to. *Q: What "well" are you making daily trips to RCC?* <u>RESPONSE</u>*: "God, I've struggled to believe that You can accept me because of _____."*

"…whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst again." v14

With the woman caught in adultery, Jesus stood between her and the stones. He never condoned her sin, and He never condemned her.

"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" [11] "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8:10-11

EXPRESS IT: You were accepted at your worst. Now go accept someone at theirs. Ask the Lord, "Who am I holding this stone for?" *Write their name or initials on it if you want. During our response time, bring it up & lay it down & let it go.*

2. EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE WHEN I _____, SO I CAN EXPRESS _____ TO OTHERS. (Mark 4:35–41; Isa. 30:18)

Jesus says, "Let us go over to the other side." [36] Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat." V35-36

The disciples were in the will of God and still sailed into a storm.

Jesus rebuked the storm, NOT the disciples.

"He got up." (Mark 4:39)

"… He will rise up to show you compassion." (Isa. 30:18)

Before He calmed the storm, He was already in the boat. Sometimes support means you don't go through it alone.

EXPERIENCE IT: Carry one another's burdens. Finish this sentence honestly before God: "Jesus, don't You care that _____?"

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2) Don't stand on the shore shouting advice. Get under the weight and always point people back to Jesus.

EXPRESS IT: Turn to someone next to you and ask, "What storm are you rowing through right now?" *Don't fix it. NO PEP TALKS. Just listen and Pray.*

3. EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE IN MY _____, SO I CAN EXPRESS _____ TO OTHERS. (John 11:1–45)

"Jesus wept." (v. 35)

People rarely need your explanations in their pain. They need your presence.

Jesus enters your pain before He ends it.

EXPERIENCE IT: Most of the time, God's comfort shows up with skin on. *"I remember a time of sadness, aloneness when… NOW think about Gods heart for you at that moment in how he showed you he cared. How did God show up for you? "God, You comforted me when _____, and You did it through _____."*

Comfort *(paráklēsis)* = to come alongside. We comfort others "with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." (2 Cor. 1:3–4)

<u>WHEN SOMEONE IS HURTING, TRY:</u>

"I'm so sorry. I don't have the right words, but I'm not going anywhere."

"What's the hardest part of this for you right now?"

"I can't imagine what you're feeling. My heart hurts for you."

Then be quiet and listen. Sometimes love just sits there and cries.

DO THE WORD — JOHN 15:12

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

Accepted: What well do you keep going back to? Who are you holding a stone for?

Supported: Finish this honestly: "Jesus, don't You care that _____?" Who is rowing through a storm that you can help carry?

Comforted: "God, You comforted me when _____, and You did it through _____."

LIVE FOR MONDAYS: *"Jesus, because You have accepted me, supported me, and comforted me, this week I will express Your love to _____ by _____."*

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2)

Don't stand on the shore shouting advice. Get under the weight — and always point them back to Jesus.

3. EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE IN MY _____, SO I CAN EXPRESS _____ TO OTHERS. (John 11:1–45)

"Jesus wept." (v. 35) He knew the miracle was coming, and He still wept with Mary.

People rarely need explanations in their pain. They need presence.

Jesus enters your pain before He ends it.

Comfort *(paráklēsis)* = to come alongside. We comfort others "with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." (2 Cor. 1:3–4)

"Mourn with those who mourn." (Rom. 12:15) Mourn WITH — not at, not explain to, not pep talk.

Most of the time, God's comfort shows up with skin on.

<u>WHEN SOMEONE IS HURTING, TRY:</u>

"I'm so sorry. I don't have the right words, but I'm not going anywhere."
"What's the hardest part of this for you right now?"
"I can't imagine what you're feeling. My heart hurts for you."
Then be quiet and listen. Sometimes love just sits there and cries.

DO THE WORD — JOHN 15:12

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

Accepted: What well do you keep going back to? Who are you holding a stone for?

Supported: Finish this honestly: "Jesus, don't You care that _____?" Who is rowing through a storm that you can help carry?

Comforted: "God, You comforted me when _____, and You did it through _____."

LIVE FOR MONDAYS: *"Jesus, because You have accepted me, supported me, and comforted me, this week I will express Your love to _____ by _____."*