

LOVE'S GOT A HOLD ON ME

(Singer Chris de Burgh, 1994)

Big Idea: Loving others as God loves me

Love's True Grit Part two is refinement.
Refinement takes place as we give and receive love.

OUR LIVES ARE EMBEDDED IN GOD'S LOVE

Eph 3:17b-19a (ESV)

...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge...

1. Knowledge
2. Stability
3. Experience

OUR DISTINGUISHING MARK IS LOVE

1 John 4:7-8 (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. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

John 13:34-35 (NLT)

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

1. The core of Christianity is love
2. Love is not optional
3. Love is visible in action

OUR LOVE MUST BE GENUINE

Eph 5:2 (NLT) Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

1 John 4:12 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.

1. Love like Jesus did
2. Love others, but show Jesus

A personal refining experience

Scriptures

Mark 12:30 (ESV)

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Matthew 10:37,38 (NLT)

If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine.

Eph 4:16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

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John 13:34-35 (NLT) So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Questions

1. How is God's love unconditional? How is it not?
2. Describe a time when you personally experienced God's love. What happened? How did you feel?
3. What effect(s) does being rooted in love have on your life?
4. Can you share an incident in which it was difficult for you to love?
5. What are some practical ways that you can demonstrate God's love?
6. Based on your personal experience, how do you know that God loves you?

References

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"Love's Got Ahold of Me" Chris de Burgh. From the Album "This Way Up" 1994

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To take into the mind; to grasp with the understanding; to apprehend the meaning of; to understand.