

## “How to Find the Highest Love”

John 15:9-17

*For God So Loved the World – John, Part 2*

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**A sense of inadequacy and worthlessness...** feelings of guilt and shame, trust issues, poor boundaries, fear of rejection, not knowing how to connect with others, withdrawn, toxic relationships, emotionally distant, insecurity issues...

- These are all symptoms of the highest love \_\_\_\_\_ being a reality in one’s life. Yet, we will seek out this love in every source imaginable. (Eccl 3:11) *We long and ache for it. We are desperate for it.*
- The result? Out of every 4 babies born 1 is aborted, 5 in 10 marriages end in divorce, 7 in 10 for second marriages, 1 in 4 children are raised without a father, 1 in 5 adults have an STD, crippling codependency is an epidemic...

**We are hard-wired to seek out the highest love... (Eccl 3:11)** We will never be \_\_\_\_\_ satisfied until we find it.

- Also, we will never be fully healed of the above symptoms until we find it. *And it’s found in our main passage.*

**John 15:9-17...** Check out V 9. Jesus loves us \_\_\_\_\_. This is the highest love!

- Further, we are to love one another as He loves us - \_\_\_\_\_. (VV 12-13; Jn 13:35)

*Sacrificial love is the highest love. JESUS is the highest love! (1 Jn 4:16)*

*How do we find the highest love? By finding Jesus!*

**Let’s tie everything together with a summary statement.**

We will seek out the highest form of love and will not find it until we fully surrender to and obey Jesus.

The more revelation you have of God’s sacrificial love (Mt 18), the more you will love others sacrificially. (1 Jn 4:7-12)

*As a result, healing from the above-mentioned symptoms is experienced.*

**“Okay, well, I really desire to be healed of the symptoms you mentioned at the beginning of the message! Help!”**

In response, you will need to fully surrender to and obey Jesus, right? Here’s what to do:

1. Regarding \_\_\_\_\_ - This is submitting to the authority and will of God as expressed in the Bible.
  - a. Action step: Read your \_\_\_\_\_ daily and take it to heart. *“Consume the Word of God until...”* – 1 Pe 2:2-3
2. Regarding loving others \_\_\_\_\_ - This is *agape* love, the highest form of love! - 1 Jn 3:16; 1 Cor 13:4-8
  - a. Action step: Name the person in your life who hurt you the most. \_\_\_\_\_ Think of a way to bless them, no strings attached. - Phil 2:3-4; Lk 6:27-36

**“But why should I?” Great question. Turn over for the textbook answer and the going deeper questions.**

## **“Why should I read my Bible daily and think of a way to bless that person who hurt me the most?”**

To borrow words from Jesus, “Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High!” (Lk 6:35)

*To answer your question in the context of the message:*

*So that you can experience, in an even deeper way, the highest love being a reality in your life.*

*This results in a joy made complete, not to mention healing from the symptoms.*

*This is what you’ve been after your whole life.*

### **GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS FOR “HOW TO FIND THE HIGHEST LOVE” – 06/23/24**

Go through this note sheet and discuss with your growth group and/or your family at the dinner table. Seek opportunities to also share this with your friends, relatives, coworkers, neighbors, and/or school mates. Bring this note sheet to your work and discuss it with your workmate over lunch. Bring it to school and discuss it with your schoolmate over lunch. Read the main passage and look up all of the supporting verses on the other side of this note sheet. Pray with one another.

1. Because we’re all born in sin, we all can relate to the list of symptoms at the top and front page of this note sheet.
  - a. Which one can you relate to the most?
  - b. Can you identify the source behind that symptom that you experienced or still experience? Y/N If you can, then please consider sharing with the group the source that caused you to develop that symptom.
  - c. By identifying the source, you can be equipped to eradicate that symptom from your life. Thoughts on this?
2. Prior to becoming an obedient follower and learner of Jesus, we all sought to love and be loved in ways that were not God’s best. As a result, we experienced some degree and form or fashion of unnecessary suffering.
  - a. Please share how you can relate to this statement.
  - b. Are you still seeking to love and be loved in ways that you know deep down inside are not God’s best? Y/N Why or why not?
  - c. How can you even know what God’s best is in this regard? (There’s a textbook answer to this.)
3. On a scale of 1-5, how much supernatural revelation have you received of God’s love for you? \_\_\_/5 If you didn’t score at least a 4, what could you do to increase your score?
4. There are a few ways that we can consume (read, study, meditate, memorize, and be taught) the Word of God. Reading, listening to audio files, listening through an entire message series and taking notes, daily devotionals (which are more of a snack than a full meal), writing memory verses on 3 X 5 cards, and on and on.

Also, the only way we can truly be obedient to God is to know his will as expressed in the Bible.

- a. What is the best way for you to consume the Word?
  - b. On a scale of 1-5, how well are you doing in this regard? \_\_\_/5 What specifically can you do to increase your score?
5. It takes a lot of work to love others sacrificially because we have a sin nature and have been “conformed to the pattern of this world” for a significant amount of time before becoming disciples of Jesus. To love others sacrificially is truly an uphill battle. It’s swimming against the current of this culture and world.
    - a. How can you practically love others sacrificially? Be specific and provide examples.