

Text: Matthew 7:7-12 **Title:** Love to Love

INTRO: You've heard the term: "**Making Love.**" But it's a false statement. You can't make love. Love is given. It's not made. You can't create, manufacture it or make it up. There's a source to love, and eternal source. In order to share it you have to first have it. **Fountain/spring of Love.**

I. Our Love (9-11a)

- A. Love means Knowing what's best for our kids.** At the same time, we know what not to give them, even if they ask for it. Can't feed them a steady diet of Candy, TV, Phones, Soda, **Sucking Ranch/Ketchup off of the chicken/meat**, etc.
- B. Using Parenting as an example.** Use your logic here. He's not saying he'll give whatever you ask, He's saying He's going to give you what's good for you when you ask for it according to His will. **PROSPERITY GOSPEL.**
- C. Even excess of Good/Neutral things can be bad.**
- D. Evil?** At our best. Jesus, not good methods for increasing your following. Attractional church. Church growth model. Make people comfortable. Fun. Relaxed. Not offend them. Squirm. Truth in love.

II. The Father's Love (7-8, 11b)

- A. Ask** (Passive/Receive). **Seek** (Active/Find). **Knock** (Joint/Opened). This is the Christian Life at different stages. Sometimes is Asking, Sometimes it's doing, Sometimes it's working together. Cooperating with Spirit.
- B. He's going to give you Holy Spirit.** He's going to love you. Good gifts.
- C. He who didn't spare His own Son.** He wants to give good gifts. **For your good!**
- D. Love your neighbor as yourself.** Why? Because I loved you. In Egypt. Rescued. Delivered. We have Jesus. The gospel.
- E. "Hurt people hurt people."** "Loved people love people." We can only love others to the extent that we've experienced love, and the love of God is the greatest love of all.
- F. We can only get to next part,** if we have known the love of God for us through Jesus.

III. Loving Others (12)

- A. How would you like to be treated?**
- B. Love them how you would want to be loved if you were them. Empathy. Introverts vs. Extroverts.** "*Sweet! I can ignore people and leave them alone.*" Haha!
- C. Knowing others.** Awareness. Emotional Intelligence. Personality is not an excuse for disobedience and selfishness/coldness. Know yourself and how to recover, but love...
- D. Put yourself in their shoes. How?! That's what Jesus did for us.**
- E. What would you want others to do for you?**
 - 1. If you said hurtful/impulsive things to someone...would you want to be forgiven?
 - 2. If you were a no-show/late/flaked to something, would you want mercy?
 - 3. If you got caught in a lie...would you want grace/understanding...?
 - 4. If you were sad, depressed, anxious, overwhelmed..want to be fixed or heard?
 - 5. If you were suffering, hurting, grieving...would you want cheer up or company?
 - 6. If you were struggling, sinning, tempted... correction or encouragement?
 - 7. If you were Happy, Excited, Rejoicing, Celebrating...would you want reality check, improvement feedback or fellow rejoicing?
- F. Romans 12:15.** "Weep with those who weep." "Rejoice with those who rejoice."

APP: When you find yourself not loving or not wanting to love...2 options. Confess/turn move toward love/obedience, or fester/harden cold/hot anger, entitled, pride, etc. (I can't believe they would treat me that way).

OUTRO: You can only give what you have. You only have b/c it's given. It's only given when you ask. You can only ask from the One who can give. He's willing to give.