



- Part 1: Understanding Our Purpose
- Part 2: Exploding The Myths
- Part 3: Entertaining The Possibilities
- Part 4: Encountering The Truth

Part 5: Admitting The Implications

Part 6: Embracing The Source

Introduction – Doing The Work Of Love

Ephesians 5:1-2

Love is the will to extend one's self for the purpose of actively honouring the value of a person. This choice will always lead to the increased well-being of both the one who is loved and the one who loves.

The pull of inertia means that love will require _____.
 The push of fear means that love will require _____.

Loving Ourselves

Lev. 19:18, 34; Matt. 19:19; 22:39; Rom. 13:9; Gal. 5:14 ; James 2:8; Eph. 5:28-30

Aside from certain situations of mental illness, we _____ love ourselves! Our growth will come from learning to love God and others with the same _____.

Examples & Applications

#1 – A WOMAN IS ABUSED BY HER HUSBAND.

Love says, "I will help you become the best version of _____ that you can be, and that means I will care for you enough to hold you _____ for your actions."

#2 – A CHILD IS WANTS TO EAT MUD AND RUN INTO THE STREETS.

Love says, "I will watch out for your good, even when you _____ or _____."

#3 – A PARENT IS BEING UNFAIR.

Love says, "I will _____ you even when I do not agree with you."

#4 – A MARRIAGE IS LACKING ROMANTIC PASSION.

Love says, "I am willing to _____ at what our relationship needs to be healthy, and in the meantime, I will not mistake our relationship as being ' _____ ' nor will I mistake the attraction I have for someone else as being ' _____ '."

#5 – A COUPLE IS CONSIDERING MARRIAGE.

Love says, "I want you to know the joy of being fully _____."

#6 – A FRIEND IS MAKING DESTRUCTIVE CHOICES.

Love says, "I will have the courage to _____ you, even at the risk of becoming less enjoyable in your eyes."

#7 – A PERSON IS LIVING IN A WAY I FIND OFFENSIVE AND/OR DESTRUCTIVE.

Love says, "I will not confuse _____ and _____, therefore I can disapprove of your behaviours or opinions while I at the same time work to accept, embrace, and honour you as an image-bearer of God."

Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; James 3:9

#8 – SOMEONE IN YOUR CIRCLES APPEARS LONELY AND ISOLATED.

Love says, "I will take the _____ to bless you."

Conclusion – The "Other-Centred" Experiment

Matthew 7:12

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. How could **Matthew 24:12** be used to describe the situation of our a) culture, b) world, c) personal lives today?
3. Read **Luke 11:42**. How can religion actually work *against* our calling to love God?
4. In what ways does **John 3:19** describe our world today? (List examples.)
5. Two kinds of people are described in **John 12:25**. a) What might each look like in today's world? b) How can someone know which category they are in? c) Which category do you think you are in?
6. According to **John 14:23-24**, how might we respond to someone who says "I love God" but does not want to follow the teachings of Jesus? What does this verse teach us about the nature of true love? (Also see **John 14:15**.)

SO WHAT?...

7. Read **Matthew 6:24**. a) Is there any THING in your life now that you "love" that you realize might be getting in the way of the love you owe God and others? b) Pray for each other in light of these issues.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, March 09, 2003