

1. Not just EVERYTHING
2. The last two weeks we have looked at God's Amazing Love for Us
3. It's a compelling love

2 Corinthians 5:14–15

“For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

4. IT CALLS FOR A RESPONSE

TODAY WE WILL LOOK AT OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

5. Are you a loving person?
 - a. Do you see yourself as someone who people would describe as loving?
 - b. I'm not talking about warm and fuzzy,
 - c. Rather, I care about you and what is best for you
 - i. and will do whatever I can
 - ii. to see that you get it–
 - iii. That is a loving mindset

6. Let's explore this a little deeper

1. LOVE IS COMMANDED

- a. It's not optional

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

John 13:34–35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- a. It's a love that differs from the old command:
 - a. *“Love Your Neighbor as you love **yourself**”*
 - b. **You** are **no** longer the standard for measuring your love for others
 - c. Jesus is the new standard for measuring your love
2. How did Jesus love?
 - a. With humility

John 13:1–5

“It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”

John 13:12–15

“When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

- b. Jesus took the role as a servant
- c. Willing to do the **menialist** tasks of a bond servant

Philippians 2:5–7

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

- a. Must have been very humbling to wash those dirty feet
 - b. He was in **very nature God** washing the feet
 - i. Of those whom he had created
 - c. Think about this:
 - ii. Is there any task that is too low for you to do?
 - iii. That is beneath you?
 - iv. If you are asked to do something
 - 1. Or to help out with something
 - 2. What’s your attitude
 - a. “Can’t you get someone else to do it?”
 - b. “I don’t have time for that,
 - c. I’m too busy with more important things to do.”
3. This is a demonstration of the **full extent** of Jesus’ love
- a. Next to the Cross
 - b. This was it!

- i. He was 2 days away from the Cross
 - ii. He had a Passover dinner to share with his disciples
 - iii. He had to introduce a new covenant that would replace the old covenant
 - iv. He needed time to pray
 - c. Yet, **he made time** to wash his disciple's feet.
- 4. This act reinforced what he had taught his disciples earlier

Matthew 23:11–12

“The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

- 5. **NOT ONLY IS LOVING ONE ANOTHER THE WAY JESUS LOVES A COMMAND**
IT IS VISIBLE PROOF OF WHO HAS ACTUALLY BEEN BORN OF GOD

1 John 4:7–8

*“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, **because God is love.**”*

- a. It's **reflective of a change** that has taken place in a person's life
- b. When a person is born again
 - i. The old person dies
 - ii. A new person arises

Romans 6:3–7

*“Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.**”*

*If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that **the body of sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”*

- c. In baptism - the sins of:
 - i. Selfishness
 - ii. Self-centeredness
 - iii. Self-seeking
 - iv. Pride and arrogance
 - v. Jealousy/envy
 - vi. Lying and deceit

THESE ALL DIE

Colossians 3:5–10

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

- a. Once we start our walk with God
 - vii. We have been **given the charge**
 - viii. To purify ourselves
 - 1. Through our obedience to the Scriptures
 - 2. We must clean house**
 - ix. Then our Love can be sincere - genuine

1 Peter 1:22–23

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”

- x. So that our love for others
- xi. Will **not** be contaminated with
 - 1. selfishness
 - 2. impure motives,
 - 3. jealousy
 - 4. or envious of others
- xii. Our love must be pure
 - 1. Otherwise, it’s unacceptable to God
 - 2. And people will see right through us

1 Thessalonians 2:8 – SINCERE LOVE:

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”

- i. They shared their lives with them
- ii. Went the extra mile

2. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT THAT WE LOVE OUR BROTHERS?

- a. **Did you know** that you **can’t** be
 - i. saved,
 - ii. a member of the body of Christ, his church,

iii. if you don't love others?

1 John 4:19–21

“We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

3. There is **no** room for **animosity** in God's church

- a. You have a problem
 - i. And from time-to-time
 - ii. we all have issues with others
- b. You work it out and **resolve** the problems

1) Bible instructs us on how to specifically **deal with people problems**

Matthew 18:15-17 (interpersonal problems and matters of sin)

2) **1 Corinthians 1:10**

(Matters of doctrine should be perfectly united)

- a. How to become a Christian
- b. Age of accountability for baptism
- c. Marriage and Divorce
- d. Lord's Supper

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.”

3) **1 Corinthians 11:17–19**

(Matters of opinion there may be difference which cause divisions)

- a. Instrumental music
- b. Wine vs Grape Juice
- c. How many times should the church meet together collectively
- d. Preacher's salary
- e. What version of the Bible is used

“In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval.”

4. **LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH SKIN ON IT**

Galatians 6:10

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

- a. Our love is first and foremost **directed to**
 - i. the family of God – The Church
 - ii. Further illustrated in:

1 John 3:16–18

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”

- a. We need to take **personal responsibility**
 - a. **Not pass it off** to the church’s administrative staff
 - b. Jesus called this out

Matthew 15:3–9

“Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,’ he is not to ‘honor his father’ with it. Thus, you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

*“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
They worship me in vain;
their teachings are but rules taught by men.”*

- c. They pass on their responsibility for taking care of their parents
 - i. To the temple
 - ii. Gave money to temple to care for their parents
- d. Another example given by Jesus

Luke 10:25–37

“On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own

donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

ILLUSTRATION: PARABLE OF THE PIT –

(A modern adaptation of Parable of Good Samaritan)

- a. A traveler fell into a deep pit and couldn't get out. Several people came along and saw him struggling in the pit.
- b. The sensitive person said, "I feel bad for you down there."
- c. The reflective person said, "It's logical that someone would fall into the pit."
- d. The interior designer said, "I can give you ideas on how to decorate your pit to make it more bearable."
- e. The judgmental person said, "Only bad people fall into pits."
- f. The curious person said, "Tell me how you fell into the pit."
- g. The legalist said, "I believe you deserve your pit."
- h. The self-pitying person said, "You should have seen my pit."
- i. The Zen Buddhist said, "There is no pit."
- j. The optimist said, "Cheer up! Things could be worse."
- k. The pessimist said, "Be prepared! Things will get worse."

ARE YOU IN HERE SOMEWHERE?

- l. But Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the miserable pit.

a. I get the idea that God is watching us

- a. Are we loving our brothers?
- b. **Or** are we **turning a blind eye** to the needs of the people around us?
- c. Particularly – our priority should be
 - i. those who are members of the **family of believers**
- d. but **not** totally ignoring those others around us

b. Churches in the 1st century use to take up a collection

- a. To help out the struggling Christians in Jerusalem
- b. Remember that many **people relocated** to Jerusalem
 - i. After being converted on the day of Pentecost
 - ii. Numbers rose to over 5000 (men) – **Acts 5**
 - iii. Great persecution began with Nero

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.”

2 Corinthians 9:12

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”

Acts 24:17

“After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings.”

READ EMAIL FROM PAKISTAN

- There is much more recorded in the Bible on how we should love one another
- We would be here all day if I were to undertake that task
- But what we discussed should challenge you to make the necessary changes to become a genuine, sincere Loving Person

SO - WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

EVERYTHING

BUT IT ALSO

CALLS FOR A RESPONSE

1 Thessalonians 3:12

“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.”