

1st John

Love Is A Verb

Those who have been genuinely changed by God no longer settle for empty words of love – they know love is a verb
1 John 3:11-23

A TALE AS OLD AS TIME:

1 John 3:11 Exodus 19:5-6 Micah 6:6-8 John 13:34-35
15:12-14 Matthew 5:13-16

THE SECOND LOVE QUESTION:

1 John 2:11

Am I _____, or just _____ for people?

FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH OUR VOWS:

1 John 2:11-24

Love is a _____, not an _____.
John 13:34-35 Matthew 5:43-48

Love is _____ proof of an _____ change.
1 John 3:14 James 1:27 1 John 2:3-6

Love has an _____ to _____.
1 John 3:16 John 20:21 Ephesians 5:2 Mark 8:34-35

Love is not an _____, or an _____, it is an _____.
1 John 3:17-18 John 3:16 James 2:14-17

Love will _____ something.
1 John 3:17-18 Philippians 2:3-4 Luke 10:25-37

Loving others _____ to God.
1 John 3:19-24 John 14:15-21

This is just _____. Revelation 22:21

Looking back over your sermon notes from this week's message, which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused, or caught your attention?

1. Who is one of the most loving people you know? How do they show their love to you and others?
2. Can you think of a time when you saw love change another person's life? If so, please describe the circumstances and the changes that took place.
3. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenged a number of the common teachings of the day on such topics as prayer, anger, divorce, and love. **In Matthew 5:43-48**, what misconceptions about love did Jesus address?

What motivations do you see in this passage for loving others? What do you think it looks like in real life to love your enemy?

4. There are times when loving someone means exercising "tough love" – doing what is best for them even when they may not like it or appreciate it. The Apostle Paul had a personal "tough love" encounter with another great Christian, the Apostle Peter, in **Galatians 2:11-14**. After reading the passage, answer the following questions.

How does it strike you that these two "pillars of faith" would be involved in such an encounter?

What could have been some unintended consequences if Paul had simply ignored Peter's actions?

How does the following passage help you decide when love calls for going the extra mile or drawing the boundaries of "tough love"?

2 Thessalonians 3:10-15

5. Wherever Jesus went, crowds flocked to Him. His response to these crowds earned Him the reputation of not only being a miracle worker but also a friend of sinners and outcasts. What do you notice about Jesus' response to people in **Matthew 9:9-13** and **Luke 7:36-39**?

In our culture, do you think Jesus is still thought of as a friend of sinners? Why or why not?

What are one or two practical ways we, as Christians, could show His love in such a way that people are attracted to Jesus, the One who truly loves them?

Can you think of any things we should stop doing?

6. Think and reflect for a few moments on the level of priority you've given to loving people in your life recently. Have you given it the priority it deserves?

Do you think you need to make any changes? If so, what are they?

7. Is there a situation in your life requiring "tough love" that you would like prayer for?