



WORD

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” -John 13:34-35

As I have loved you. How DID Jesus love us? By befriending and eating with outcasts and sinners, collaborators and prostitutes, the unclean, the impure, the unloved. By stretching the boundaries of his own love. By self-sacrificial life and death. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have this kind of love for one another.

1 LOVE IS A CHOICE

We are always responsible for how we act no matter how we feel. No matter what people say, do or think about us we can still choose to love them. Jesus commanded us to love indicating that we have control over whom we choose to love or not to love. Remember a time when your choice to love was put to the test.

*“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”
-Colossians 3:14*

2

LOVE IS A MATTER OF CONDUCT

God teaches us to how love by putting unlovable people around us. It is easy to love someone who is nice and caring but the real measure of love is when we are able to continue loving someone even if we cannot find a reason to anymore. A strong relationship is choosing to act in love even in those moments that you struggle to like each other.

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” - 1Corinthians 13:4-7

The way of love. This is the love chapter of the bible and it doesn't try to define what love is but rather describes love as a matter of conduct. Love is s a verb. It is an action word. Without action, it is just a word. There are people who are sometimes hard to love but there are people who are hard to love at all. We may not like them and its all right not to have warm affection towards them (Jesus had no warm affection for the Pharisees) but we do have to love them. What are the actions words in these verses that you are still wrestling with?

3

WE ALWAYS HAVE A CHOICE

“with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” -Ephesians 4:2

The enemy is out to cause division among people. He sows discord among men. We are not bound to these because we are capable of choosing to be humble rather than be arrogant, gentle instead of rude, and patient instead of intolerant. We are able to love because God loved us first.

We can always choose to love. God’s kind of love is a choice that you make on the basis of what God said, and not on how you feel. Then you have to act on it in faith until it becomes a reality in your spirit, soul, and body and in the way you talk, the way you feel and treat other people.

How can this verse make a difference in the relationships that you are in right now?

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