



Your story matters.



WHAT DOES LOVE REQUIRE OF ME?

PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN
OCTOBER 17TH, 2021

MYRC.CHURCH

better decisions
fewer regrets

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Note Ephesians 5:15-17 ; John 3:16; Ephesians 5:1-2; Titus 3:4-8a;
2 Corinthians 5:14; Galatians 5:6b; Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

1. What _____ Love Is Not

When we hear/read the beautiful and full meaning of 3 words by John, *God is _____* (1 John 4:8, 16), if we end up only interpreting that from a human perspective, it will take us to places that will _____ our lives and relationships.

By definition, God's love cannot be grasped by our own intelligence and _____.

Most people think the word *love* means things like:

- A. _____ feelings/emotions—God commands us to love others; not have warm _____ feelings about others.
- B. _____ attention/sex.
- C. _____ acceptance—God's love gives _____ acceptance (He loves you no matter what you've done); but not _____ acceptance (He loves you too much to let you stay the way you are).
- D. Positive _____/feelings—God's love can produce good feelings...but it can also bring *conviction*, _____, *uncomfortableness*, and *the realization of our need to change*. (Thompson).

2. What God's Love Is

(note 1 John 3:16; 4:9-10, 19; Romans 5:6-8)

God's love isn't a _____, it's a _____.

Love is _____ for the highest good of another.

The full picture of what God's love is is far more _____ than our small and often inaccurate understanding of love.

Jesus is the embodiment of _____ love. But He:

- Physically drove out the moneychangers in the Temple (_____).
- Warned of a terrible place called _____.
- Forgave and healed people and also told them to _____ *no more*.
- _____ rebuked the religious leaders (note Matthew 23).
- Also hung on the cross and the first thing He said was, *Father, forgive them*.
- Reached out to the most _____ people at that time.
- Patiently taught and modeled what real love and truth is to His disciples even when they argued with each other about who was the greatest...
- Touched and healed lepers.
- Crossed ethnic and _____ barriers.
- Made crystal clear that the _____ mark of what it means to be His followers to a lost world is this incredible love...(note John 13:1-5, 34-35).

Am I making better decisions so I can have fewer regrets?:

- Perhaps the best way to start to understand God's love and what it looks like is to see...(note John 1:14; Ephesians 4:15; Galatians 5:6b).
- Making better decisions and having fewer regrets has to involve God's love..._____ who we are (note John 13:34-35).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or hard copy).*

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SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: What's a favorite fall treat you like to eat/drink during this season? About how long can you enjoy it before your taste changes with the winter season?

1. Share any takeaways from Stanley's chapter, *The Relationship Question*, as you get started.
2. Stanley talked about how sharing God's love doesn't guarantee a "return investment," and yet is how we make the world a better place. Share about a time you invested in someone without knowing the outcome.
3. How has your understanding of "love" changed over the years? Can you remember any specific experiences that impacted this understanding?
4. "God's love can produce good feelings...but it can also bring *conviction, tension, uncomfortableness, and the realization of our need to change.* (Thompson)." Describe a time God's love helped you realize your need to change.
5. Pastor Tom proclaimed, "Jesus is the embodiment of perfect love." Review the list of Jesus' actions in the Message Notes. How did these varied actions demonstrate love?
6. Read John 1:14, Ephesians 4:15 and Galatians 5:6b. How are you letting God's love define who you are and how you love others? John 13:34-35

❑ *Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets*—Chapter 6 & Conclusion (pages 145—176)

❑ *Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Corinthians 13*

WEEKLY READING

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fewer regrets

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2 Corinthians 5:14; Galatians 5:6b; Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

1. What God's Love Is Not

When we hear/read the beautiful and full meaning of 3 words by John, *God is love (1 John 4:8, 16)*, if we end up only interpreting that from a human perspective, it will take us to places that will hinder our lives and relationships. By definition, God's love cannot be grasped by our own intelligence and acumen.

Most people think the word *love* means things like:

- A. Romantic feelings/emotions—God commands us to love others; not have warm fuzzy feelings about others.
- B. Physical attention/sex.
- C. Blind acceptance—God's love gives blanket acceptance (He loves you no matter what you've done); but not blind acceptance (He loves you too much to let you stay the way you are).
- D. Positive vibe/feelings—God's love can produce good feelings...but it can also bring conviction, tension, uncomfortableness, and *the realization of our need to change*. (Thompson).

2. What God's Love Is

(note 1 John 3:16; 4:9-10, 19; Romans 5:6-8)

God's love isn't a noun, it's a verb.

Love is choosing for the highest good of another.

The full picture of what God's love is is far more complex than our small and often inaccurate understanding of love.

Jesus is the embodiment of perfect love. But He:

- Physically drove out the moneychangers in the Temple (twice).
- Warned of a terrible place called hell.
- Forgave and healed people and also told them to sin no more.
- Bluntly rebuked the religious leaders (note Matthew 23).
- Also hung on the cross and the first thing He said was, *Father, forgive them*.
- Reached out to the most despised people at that time.
- Patiently taught and modeled what real love and truth is to His disciples even when they argued with each other about who was the greatest...
- Touched and healed lepers.
- Crossed ethnic and racial barriers.
- Made crystal clear that the identifying mark of what it means to be His followers to a lost world is this incredible love...(note John 13:1-5, 34-35).

Am I making better decisions so I can have fewer regrets?:

- Perhaps the best way to start to understand God's love and what it looks like is to see...(note John 1:14; Ephesians 4:15; Galatians 5:6b).
- Making better decisions and having fewer regrets has to involve God's love...defining who we are (note John 13:34-35).

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