



The Relationship Question

WEEK SEVEN

It is easy to justify being unloving.

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ 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.’ ”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:25-29 (NIV)

The key to eternal life is expressing love to God and others.

SERIES BIG IDEA

When I follow God's will, I will have no regrets.

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV)

SERIES BIG PRAYER:

Father, I want Your will more than I want my way. Show me Your will for today.

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

The evidence of God's will in my life is shown to whom and how I demonstrate love.

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

I John 4:7-12 (NIV)

Not demonstrating God's love to those closest to you denies them the chance to experience God's love.

God is love; therefore, expressing love outwardly displays God's will at work in our lives.

What does God's will, expressed in love, require of me?

TEACHING BIG IDEA

It is God's will that I love others the way Jesus demonstrated His love for me.



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What is the loving thing for me to do?

I must strive to do the wisest, most loving thing in any circumstance.

MY NOTES:



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Everywhere you look you will find people seeking out love. Some are seeking out romantic love, some friendship love, others still are seeking out accepting love. But everyone is in need of love.

As Christ-followers we have, living inside of us, the only true, eternal source of love. We have Christ who is love. When we, as Paul tells the Roman church to do, offer ourselves as living sacrifices, we are committed to demonstrating His love to others.

Jesus, who lives inside us, is the ultimate source of love and is exactly what people are looking for even when they don't know it.

So whatever your circumstances, whatever situation you find yourself in, and regardless of who you are talking with, you must ask yourself what is the loving thing that because of my relationship with Jesus.

Each and every interaction and decision is an opportunity to show the love of Christ. Take advantage and love well!

TALK-IT-OVER:

Who is the most loving person you know? What makes you say that? How have you experienced their love in your life?

Who is someone you have had a difficult time showing love toward? Why do you believe it is so difficult?

Have you ever stopped to ask Jesus to let His love flow out of you and into that person or circumstance? Why or why not?

What is one next step you can take today?

Who is someone you need to tell about this?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) John 15:12-17

Day 2) John 13:34-35

Day 3) John 14:15-20

Day 4) Matthew 7:12; Romans 13:8-10

Day 5) John 14:21-24

Day 6) John 14:25-31