

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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REAL LOVE

Matthew 22 / 1 Corinthians 13

I really wonder if we even know what the word love means. We use it so much, from “I love my wife” to “I love my job” to “I love pizza.” I don’t know about you but I did not come from a loving affectionate home. There were no hugs in my home. There were no “I love you” statements to one another. When I became a Christian, it was very hard for me to express love and to receive love. It certainly was difficult for me to use the word love and tell someone I love them. The truth is, a lot of people don’t want to make themselves vulnerable to love. When you love someone you can be hurt. There are many emotions that come with love. But it’s certainly worth it.

In this message, I am going to talk about three things: the love God has for you, the love that we ought to have for God, and the love that we should have for one another.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

- 1. The love God has for you.** God loves you. That is so clear in Scripture. God says in the book of Jeremiah, “I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.” The love that God has for you goes back further than you could ever imagine. God in His great love chose you to be His child. God personally chose and loved you as though you were the only person on the earth. Jesus said in John 15, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and bring forth lasting fruit.”
- 2. We should love God.** In 1 John it says, “We love Him because He first loved us.” The more I know about the awesome love of God for me, the more I will want to respond in kind and to love Him right back. Matthew 22:36 says, “‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Jesus is saying, instead of trying to focus on all of these rules, just love God.
- 3. We should love one another.** In 1 Corinthians 13:3–7, we don’t just read about what love is, we read about what love does. The modern translation says, “Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head, doesn’t force itself on others. Isn’t always ‘me first.’ Doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others. Doesn’t revel when others grovel. Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth. Puts up with anything. Trust God always. Always looks for the best. Never looks back, but keeps going to the very end” (MSG). This is effectively a portrait of Jesus Christ.

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RELEVANT REMINDERS

Here are some takeaway points to consider. If you really love your wife or your husband:

- You will be patient with them.
- You will show kindness and tenderness to them.
- You will not boast of it. You will just do it.
- You will show respect for them.
- You will not be harsh with them.
- You will believe the best and not the worst about them.
- You are going to make it through the rough patches.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Husband, don't tell me about the problems with your wife. Do you love her as Christ loves the church? That is your job. Wives, don't tell me what a lousy husband you have. Are you respecting your husband as the Bible tells you to? If we would just do our own part, I think we would be shocked by the changes that would come.