



**Demonstration
of Love**
Message 8

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June 4, 2023

► **Outline**

... 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:39 (NLT)

A. Introduction

(Matthew 22:37-39; John 13:35; 1 Corinthians 13:1-5;
Hebrews 10:24)

B. Love people by...

(1 Corinthians 13:6-7)

1. Rejecting _____.

(1 Corinthians 13:6a. C/R: Isaiah 5:20; Matthew 5:43-44;
Romans 12:9)

2. Rejoicing in _____.

(1 Corinthians 13:6b. C/R: Psalm 26:3; 86:11;
John 8:31-32; 2 John 4)

3. Refusing to _____.

(1 Corinthians 13:7. C/R: Romans 12:12; Galatians 6:9;
1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 4:7)

Answers: 1. evil 2. truth 3. quit

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

Think of (or share with your group) a story of love.

Prayer

Spend a few minutes slowing down. Allow enough time for your mind to stop racing and your heart to experience a sense of calm. As you begin this week's study, ask God to reveal Himself to you in new and beautiful ways. Say yes in your spirit to all He has for you.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7.

1. Reflect on vs. 1-3. What point is Paul trying to make? Why do good spiritual acts gain *nothing* for us if we do them without love?
2. Which descriptions of love in this passage are most difficult for you? Which one is the most natural? Give an example.
3. Which of these descriptions of love have you experienced from God?
4. Loving others is diminished when we focus on ourselves. Which of the following self-descriptors have you seen in your own life: self-pity, self-indulgence, self-promoting or self-sufficiency? Can you think of a prime example?
5. It's easy to love people who are lovable. Think of a time you expressed love to someone who's difficult or resistant. How did that person respond? What did you learn from that encounter?
6. What's the greatest motivator for love?
7. When have you felt like giving up on love?

Read 1 John 4:7-21.

8. What words, phrases or concepts are most significant to you? Why?
9. How has God's love transformed the way you view people?
10. How can you *live in love* (vs. 16) more constantly?
11. *We love each other because He (God) loved us first* (vs. 19). Why is the order important? What happens when we try to love without first being filled with God's love? How does the Gospel give you hope in your failure to love people as Christ loves them?
12. What are ways you can apply this week's lesson to your life?

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. Our hope is that these would become a regular part of your life, so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.

Pause and ask God to bring a specific person's name (or face) to mind. Love them in a particular way this week without anyone (including that person) knowing it was you.

Memory Verse

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

Hebrews 10:24 (NLT)

Daily Reading

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|------------------------|----------------------|
| Day 1: Isaiah 5:20 | Day 4: 2 John 4-6 |
| Day 2: Matthew 5:43-48 | Day 5: John 15:12-15 |
| Day 3: John 8:31-32 | |

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, June 11, we'll begin a series *Hearing God*. To prepare, read **John 10:2-5**.



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