

SERMON NOTES



Love God...Love People The Difficulty to Love

February 19, 2023

Why is love difficult?

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

What makes love difficult? I _____!

1. My sinful nature says I just have to love _____.

- *Galatians 5:19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.*

2. My victim nature says I just love people who _____ me.

- *Matthew 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'*

3. My pharisee nature says I don't love people _____ than me.

- *Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.*

How does Jesus love the difficult?

1. Jesus loved others _____ than himself.

- *Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- *John 13:5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel...*

2. Jesus loved those that _____ love him.

- *Matthew 23:37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.*
- *Luke 22:51 But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.*
- *Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*

3. Jesus loved those that were not _____ like him.

- *John 21:17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.*
- *John 8:11 "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."*
- *Matthew 9:11-12 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."*

How do I love the difficult?

1. Because Jesus loved me, I can _____ others.

- *Ephesians 5:1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*
- *Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*

2. Because Jesus loved me, I can love those who _____ love me.

- *Matthew 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.*

3. Because Jesus loved me, I can love _____ people like me.

- *Matthew 18:21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

We love because he first loved us.

Don't miss the devotional emails this week to build on today's message!

(Go to crosspointgtx.com and click on "Daily Devotions" – bottom left.)

SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life

The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:

The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:

The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:

My prayers today are:

Someone I would like to bless with today's message:

DIGGING DEEPER: Apply to My Life

Scripture: *(Use one from the message this week)*

Observation: *(What stood out about this verse? What do you notice?)*

Application: *(How can you apply this verse in your life today? How can you live in light of this truth?)*

Prayer: *(Turn your thoughts into prayer. Ask the Lord to show you how to believe and live this verse. Pray for people and situations in your life.)*