



Part 2: Love American Style

WHAT IS LOVE?

Some cultural definitions of love:

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT REAL LOVE IS?

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." 1 John 3:16

1. Real love _____.

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1John 4:10

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight." Eph. 1:4

2. Real love _____ its giver.

"...Jesus laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." v16b

"...He loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1John 4:10b

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

3. Real love _____ us.

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him." 1John 4:16-17

"We love because he first loved us." 1John 4:19

4. Real love is the _____ of my calling.

"And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." 1John 4:21

"Dear friends, let us love one another..." 1John 4:7

Daily Meditations

Take a few minutes every day to read Scripture, pray, and answer some thought-provoking questions pertaining to this week's topic.

This week's memory verse:

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." 1John 3:16

Monday

Look back over your notes from last weekend. Which of the four points is most difficult for you to act on? Why?

Evaluate your definition of love. How have you been impacted by the culture's definition of love?

What are some of the results of true love in your life?

Thank God today for His perfect love for you. Ask Him to help you grow in your love for Him and reflect His love to the people around you.

Tuesday

Read 1 John 3:16. What does the word "cherish" mean to you?

How have you felt God cherishing you?

TLC message by Mark Spurlock for February 16 & 17, 2002

Think of three people in your life who you love. Write down their name and one thing you can do or say today to show them that you cherish them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Why do you think cherishing is an important part of love?

Thank God today for the many ways you have felt His cherishing love. Thank Him for His care and concern for you. Ask Him to give you the courage to cherish the people around you and show them real love.

Wednesday

Read Rom. 5:8 & 1 John 4:10. Spend a few minutes today meditating on the fact that God *chooses* to love you. That there is nothing you could do or say to convince Him to not choose to love you. He is crazy about you! Let that sink in to your heart today.

How does choosing to love go against today's culture?

What is the importance of making a choice to love?

Think about your close relationships. How are you being presented with the choice to love?

How will choosing to love change your perspective on those relationships?

Thank God today for His love that chooses you. Ask Him to strengthen your commitment to choose love even when it's difficult. Ask God to give you more of His heart to love.

Thursday

Read 1John 3:16b, 18, 4:10b. Real love costs its giver. Those are scary words to live!

What did real love cost God?

What has real love cost you?

What was the result of paying the price of real love?

When is it difficult for you to commit to paying the price of real love?

Pray about the close relationships you're in right now. How are resisting the cost of real love?

Thank God today for His amazing love and the cost He paid to love you. Talk to Him about any areas that you're resistant to paying the cost of real love. Ask Him to soften and mold your heart to reflect His.

Friday

Read 1 John 4:16-17. Love makes an impact - on the giver and the receiver! According to these verses, how is love made complete?

List four ways God's love for you has changed your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How has showing real love to someone in your life changed you?

Thank God today for His example of love to you. Ask Him to help you live a life of love today. Ask Him for the desire and courage to be a force of love in your relationships.

Saturday

Please pray for the services this weekend. Spend time committing to love the people around you the way God loves you. Imagine the unlimited potential of a church that lives out God's love!