









FOUNDATION SCRIPTURE: IITIMOTHY 3:1-5





IITIMOTHY 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

LESSON NINE: DON'T BE THAT CHRISTIANI (UNLOVING)







"OUR JOB IS TO LOVE OTHERS WITHOUT STOPPING TO INQUIRE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE WORTHY."

GOD'S ESSENCE IS LOVE.

I JOHN 4:8, "WHOEVER DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD, BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE."



JOHN 3:16,

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

ROMANS 5:8,

BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

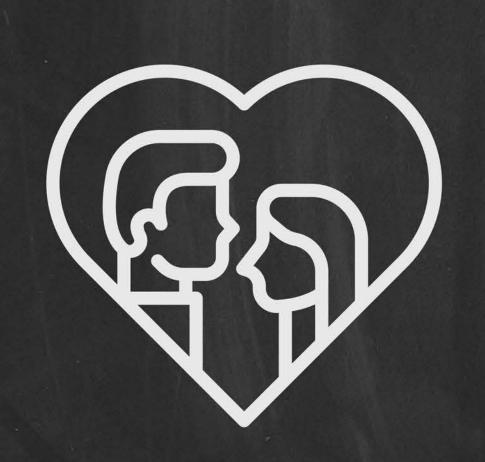


CHRISTIAN LOVE IS A LIFESTYLE.



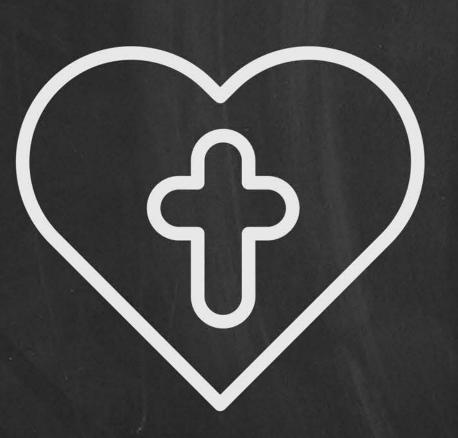
JOHN 13:34-35,

A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER, EVEN AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, THAT YOU ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS ALL MEN WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.



MATTHEW 22:36-39,

'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' THIS IS THE GREATEST AND FOREMOST COMMANDMENT. THE SECOND IS LIKE IT, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS HANG THE WHOLE LAW AND THE PROPHETS."



MATTHEW 7:12,

IN EVERYTHING, THEREFORE, TREAT PEOPLE THE SAME WAY YOU WANT THEM TO TREAT YOU, FOR THIS IS THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.



"TREAT OTHERS HOW YOU WANT TO BE TREATED."



LOVING THOSE WHO ARE HARD TO LOVE.



LOVING DIFFICULT PEOPLE IS A HARDER PATH OF FAITH, BUT IT'S ALSO WHERE HIS GREATEST WORK BEGINS IN OUR OWN HEART.



LUKE 6:32-34,

IF YOU LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE YOU, WHAT CREDIT IS THAT TO YOU? EVEN SINNERS LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE THEM. AND IF YOU DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO ARE GOOD TO YOU, WHAT CREDIT IS THAT TO YOU? EVEN SINNERS DO THAT. AND IF YOU LEND TO THOSE FROM WHOM YOU EXPECT REPAYMENT, WHAT CREDIT IS THAT TO YOU? EVEN SINNERS LEND TO SINNERS, EXPECTING TO BE REPAID IN FULL."

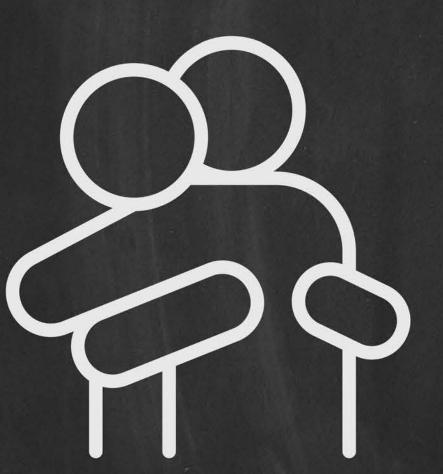


LOVE YOUR ENEMIES.

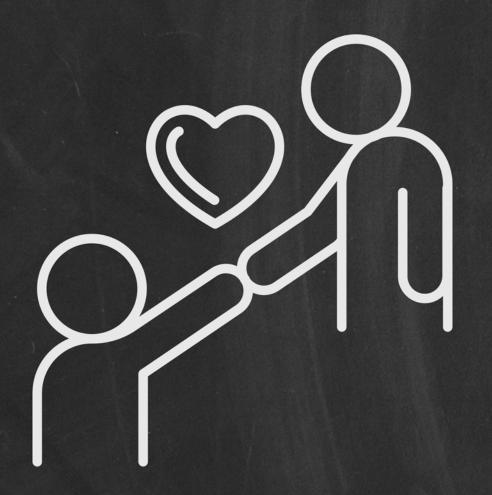


LUKE 6:35-36,

"BUT LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD TO THEM, AND LEND TO THEM WITHOUT EXPECTING TO GET ANYTHING BACK. THEN YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE CHILDREN OF THE MOST HIGH, BECAUSE HE IS KIND TO THE UNGRATEFUL AND WICKED. BE MERCIFUL, JUST AS YOUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL."



THERE ARE NO CATEGORIES OR CONDITIONS FOR THE PEOPLE WE ARE TO LOVE.



WE ARE NEVER MORE LIKE GOD THAN WHEN WE LOVE THOSE THAT HATE US.



"WHEN YOU LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, YOU REVEAL WHAT KIND OF GOD OUR GOD IS."



"WHEN YOU LEARN HOW TO SIT AT THE TABLE WITH YOUR JUDAS, YOU'LL UNDERSTANDTHE LOVE OF CHRIST."





FIVE WAYS TO LOVE SOMEONE WHO'S HARD TO LOVE:



1. Pray Often 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



2. Humble Yourself Romans 12:3





3. Learn Their Story Colossians 3:12-13





4. Forgiven Often Ephesians 4:32





5. Set Healthy Boundaries Proverbs 13:20

WHEN YOU LOVE PEOPLE IN SPITE OF, IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.



ROMANS 5:8,

BUT GOD PROVES HIS LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.



"DON'T WAIT FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO BE LOVING, LEAD THE WAY!"



FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

1. How do you know God loves you?

2. Christian love is a lifestyle. How so?

3. For God to teach you real love, He must bring unlovely people into your life. Agree or disagree?

4. Why is it necessary for Christians to love their enemies?

5. List five ways to love someone who's hard to love.

6. How would you define "In spite of love?"
7. How can I apply this lesson to my spiritual life?