

Love is For Losers

Intro:

Love is the most overused word in our vocabulary - the same word we use to talk about shampoo and ice cream...The same word used to validate everything from affairs to abortion cannot be the same word used in the Bible for God Himself.

So what is love?

This love

Problem:

Rom 12:1-8 - having established our response to salvation Paul moves on to the means of this response - love... but there is a problem

2 Cor 6:6

There is such a thing as non-genuine love,

1 Tim 1:5

There is such a thing as impure love,

1 Pet 1:22

There is such a thing as insincere love

2 Cor 11:12-15

In the same way Satan disguises himself as an angel of light

The self-centered, self-serving, self-exalting love of the world is disguised as genuine...but its not

We live in a culture where losing is the enemy. It is the enemy at work where we battle for recognition and promotion. It is the enemy at home where we battle for our rights and leisure amongst chores and responsibilities. It is the enemy where we share with the world posting our wins and curated selfies. We fight to win the best stuff, the best parking spaces, the best deals. And we fight to win validation, approval, love. But Christ calls us to do it all backwards - He calls us to lose.

Main Idea:

Genuine love is about losing your rights

Genuine love is about losing your restraint

Genuine love is about losing your reputation

Implication:

Acts 16:23-31

The prisoners are listening

Application:

even though genuine love is for losers genuine love never fails

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/agape-love.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-love.html>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/deny-yourself-for-more-delight>

Love is For Losers

Text:

Genuine Love is about losing your rights

Rom. 12:9 ¶ Let **love (agape)** be **genuine**. **Abhor (participle)** what is evil; **hold fast (participle)** to what is good.

Eph 4:17-5:2 (abhor what is evil - old you -genuine love is visible not only by what we do but why - true love is not done for ulterior aims it is free from pretense or hypocrisy)

Phil 2:1-11 (genuine love is about losing your rights)

1 cor 13 living sacrifice - death by a thousand cuts - 25 cents at a time

Genuine Love is about losing your restraint

Rom. 12:10 **Love (phileo)** one another with brotherly **affection (phileo)**. **Outdo (participle)** one another in showing honor.

Rom. 12:11 Do not be slothful in **zeal**, be **fervent (participle)** in spirit, **serve (participle) the Lord**.

Rom. 12:12 Rejoice **(participle)** in hope, be patient **(participle)** in tribulation, be constant **(participle)** in prayer.

Rom. 12:13 Contribute **(participle)** to (fellowship in) **the needs of the saints** and seek **(participle)** to show hospitality.

mk 12:28-31 (genuine love has an aim - "serve the Lord" (12:1) genuine love is about losing your restraint - outdo, zeal, fervent, serve, rejoice, hope, be constant, contribute, show hospitality)

Jn 13:1-17; 34-35 (our unrestrained love for one another is our greatest apologetic to the world)

1 Jn 2:5-6, 10; 3:1-3, 10, 11, 14, 16-18, 23; 4:7-12, 16-5:5 (genuine love makes a claim - His)

Genuine love is about losing your reputation

Rom. 12:14 ¶ **Bless those who persecute you**; bless and do not curse them.

Rom. 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Rom. 12:16 **Live in harmony (participle) with one another**. Do not be haughty, but associate **(participle)** with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

Rom. 12:17 **Repay (participle) no one evil for evil**, but give thought **(participle)** to do what is honorable **in the sight of all**.

Rom. 12:18 **If (since - grammar says it is often possible)** possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably **(participle)** with all.

Rom. 12:19 Beloved, **never avenge (participle) yourselves**, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Rom. 12:20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

Rom. 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good**.

Matt 5:13-16 (The Christian community is meant to be visible it is meant to be tasted in society it is meant to be a thermostat (changing the room) not a thermometer (merely reflecting it))

But what separates the church from every lobbying special interest group in the world?

Love. Only the church really has it. It is the supernatural mark of His presence in this world...

Do you catch the implication?

Our witness is tied to the genuine-ness of our love - genuine love brings Him fame...how????

5:43-6:1 (through the loss of our reputation-our supernatural love is our greatest witness to the world)

1 Cor 9:19-23 (Paul was willing to lose his reputation, his status for others - to become less when necessary for them)

(Jn 2:1-11 (Jesus knew how to celebrate at a wedding))

(Jn 11:33-35 (Jesus knew how to weep at a funeral))

1 Cor 5:9-6:8

Jn 4:1-3 (Jesus also knew about the importance of harmony before the world)

1 pet 2:11-12 (our reputation does not matter - His does)

1 Pet 3:13-16 (so even as they malign your reputation - uphold His...why????)

Acts 16:23-31 (the prisoners are listening)