

## LOVE ON TRIAL (...continued)

Love is proved by our actions, not merely by our words.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ This is the year we put our love on trial. We all need to put ourselves on the stand and allow the word of God to judge us.
- ❖ Romans 2:15 reminds us of the ‘court of conscience’ in our hearts, where all our actions are weighed and either “accused or ... excused.”
- ❖ In similar fashion, we need to establish a “Love Court” where all our thoughts, words and actions are consistently tried to ensure that we are living the lives of love Jesus prescribed for us in John 13:34-35.
- ❖ John followed up with a long discourse on love in one of his own letters (see 1 John 4:7-8, 11-12, 16, 20-21). Christian love, simply, is when we consciously:
  - say to others what we would like others to say to us.
  - pay attention to and acknowledge others as we would wish to be acknowledged.
  - do *to* others and *for* others what we would like done for us.
  - care for others as we would wish others to care for us.
  - think about others as we would wish them to think about us.
  - inconvenience ourselves for others as we would hope others would inconvenience themselves for us if there was ever a need.
- ❖ When questioned by the lawyer in Luke 10 on who ‘his neighbour’ was, Jesus answered with the powerful parable we call “The Parable of the Good Samaritan.”
- ❖ A despised Samaritan was the character chosen by Jesus to show the lawyer what he needed to practice:
  - An observant love: “he saw him” (v.33)
  - A compassionate love: “he had compassion” (v.33)
  - A barrier-breaking love: “a certain Samaritan” (v.33); “went to him (a Jew)” (v.34)
  - An involved love: “bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine” (v.34)
  - An inconvenient love: “set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him” (v. 34)
  - A time-consuming love: “on the next day... he departed” (v.35)
  - A costly love: “he took out two denarii” (v.35)
  - An ongoing love: “when I come again” (v.35)
- ❖ This is love of the highest order—self-giving, “*agape*” love.
- ❖ We often think of 1 Corinthians 13 as Paul’s “love chapter,” but it isn’t the only place where he gives us a good love lesson.

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

Luke 10:25-37; John 13:34-35

- ❖ He said in Romans 12:9-10, 13:
 

*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another...<sup>13</sup>distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*
- ❖ However, instead of the passive statement “[Let] love [be] without hypocrisy,” we would get the real power of the verse if we read it the way Paul most likely intended it to be read: “Love without hypocrisy!”
- ❖ Let’s review with some simple questions we can use for cross examination in our Love Court:
  - Am I treating *all* of my brothers and sisters the way in which I wish them to treat me?
  - Do I go *directly* to a brother or sister *in private* when I have a dispute with them?
  - Do I listen with an open heart and open ears to a brother or sister who thinks differently than I do? Do I love them enough to listen and consider what they have to say?
  - Is there anyone in our church I don’t speak to because I hate them?
  - Have I sincerely apologized to those I know I have wronged? (A sincere apology is only effective when the *recipient* deems it to be sincere.)
- ❖ We have looked at tools we can use as we put our Love on Trial, but we can summarize it all into one easy-to-remember phrase. Let’s memorize the words of Jesus: “...whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them....” (Matthew 7:12).

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Think about the person (or type of person) you have the most difficulty showing love to. Share why you think loving this (type of) person is a problem for you.
2. If you were the injured man in the parable, how would react to each of the other characters if you met at a later date?
3. Can someone show love to a person they don’t like? Share and explain your view.

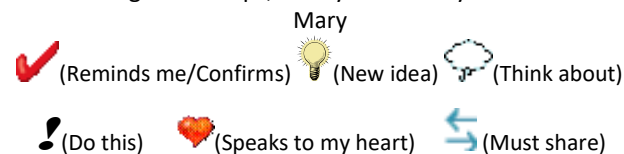
### Prayer Time

Dear Lord, please help me to realize and remember that mere words “are not enough... show me how to love.” In Jesus’ name, amen.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.




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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Do you agree that people have various “love languages”? Explain. If so, what is your primary “love language”?