

Where Do We Go From Here? - Week 2

LOVE NEVER FAILS

Professing to be a Christian means that we agree with the teachings of Jesus.

1 John 4:8 (NIV)—God is love.

John 3:16—For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes on Him would not perish, but have everlasting life.

God loved the world, so He gave to it.

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)—I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)—Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her.

John 15:12-13—This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Love is only expressed through giving.

God didn't require anything of us before He loved us (gave to us).

Romans 5:8 (NIV)—8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

To love is to give.

To be Christians, we must be givers.

You can always tell how much you love by how much you give.

Matthew 6:21—Where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

What you love is seen by how you give.

But be careful how you give.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3—Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Notice: Love is more about why you give as opposed to what you give.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (AMP)—Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (joyous) giver [whose heart is in his giving].

You can give things and do things for selfish reasons.

What does real love look like?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7—Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

This is the God-kind of love.

Romans 5:5 (NKJV)—5 the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

To love doesn't take money, experience, education; it takes something we all have and that we all have control of: our time and effort.

1 John 4:8 (NIV)—Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

We find it hard to love others is because deep down we believe that we are better than they are.

We start to build our identity, self-worth, and security on what we have.

This by default pushes us to judge others.

Our natural response is to judge instead of show mercy.

We've not been called to deal with other people's sin, that's God's job. We've been called to deal with other people's needs

This is exactly what Jesus did for you and for me!

John 3:17 (NLT)—17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Jesus didn't come preaching the bad news; He came preaching the Good News!

Acts 10:38 (NKJV)—38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Romans 2:4 (NKJV)—the goodness of God leads men to repentance.

1 Corinthians 13:8—Love never fails.