



Giving August 2, 2020

We are studying foundational truths of the Bible that tell us who we are in Christ. Knowing our identity in Him gives us a firm foundation to build our lives on in crazy times.

“When we know who we are, we can act rather than react.” —Pastor Rob O’Neal

We’ve looked at some implications of being adopted children of God, having a relationship with Him, looking to Jesus in order to persevere through tough times. This week we’ll see that as brothers and sisters in Christ, we are designed for connection and called to give love to one another.

Connected

[Q] From the following verses, describe how the family of God is connected to God and each other.

Ephesians 2:19–21

Matthew 12:46–50

Love and Give

Read Leviticus 19:9–18.

[Q] In this passage, God’s instructions include what loving your neighbor is *not*. On the left below, list what loving your neighbor excludes. On the right, note which of God’s character qualities is the basis for His command. (The first character quality is done for you.)

Don’t:	Because God is:
v. 9-10	Merciful, generous
v. 11	
v. 12	
v. 13	
v. 14	
v. 15	

v. 16

v. 17

v. 18

[Q] From the passage above how is love demonstrated by action?

[Q] Read John 13:34–35. How is this commandment “new”?

[Q] Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. How does this passage shape your understanding of what it means to love as a follower of Jesus?

Here is a spiritual principle: We cannot exercise love unless we are experiencing grace. You cannot truly love others unless you are convinced that God’s love for you is unconditional, based solely on the merit of Christ, not on your performance. John said, “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Our love, either to God or to others, can only be a response to His love for us.

Jerry Bridges, *Transforming Grace*.

[Q] How has God’s unconditional love shaped your life?

Apply

[Q] What happens when we try to love difficult people out of our own strength? What will you do when you run out of your own capacity to keep loving someone? Is there someone in your life you need God’s grace and power to love well?

[Q] What are some creative ways we can love in times of physical distancing?

How can we help each other to love:

- the people who are closest to us? Family and friends?
- our brothers and sisters at church?
- the difficult brother or sister in Christ?
- my neighbor? Co-worker?
- people I don’t even “like”?
- brothers and sisters across the world?

How do we apply the Bible to our daily lives? We become “doers of the Word.” James 1:22 says that if we are hearers only we are deceiving ourselves.

[Q] Think of someone you need to love better in God’s strength. How will you do that this week? What might get in the way?