



**res-to-ra-tion:** the action of returning something to a former condition. Original condition.

- God is in the **restoring** business!
- God's desire to restore you shows that He **cares** for you.
- God's desire to restore you shows that He **values** you.
- Restoration always requires that **rust** is eliminated.

He died in our place to take away our sins, and not only our sins but the sins of all people. 1 John 2:2 (NCV)  
He was wounded for our rebellious acts. He was crushed for our sins. He was punished so that we could have peace, and we received healing from his wounds. Isaiah 53:5 (GWT)

**What it means for God to restore our lives:**

- We accept that we are **broken** and we surrender ourselves to God and His **healing** process.

**The real questions are:**

What in my life needs to be **healed**?

Have I **surrendered** that area of my life to God today?

**How you know you need a restored love for people:**

We live in a **divided** world.

The **wickedness** of the world is increasing.

Love is our **message**.

For when you demonstrate the same love I have for you by loving one another, everyone will know that you're my true followers." John 13:35 (TPT)

The message of your life is the **love** in your life.

**The temptation we face:**

- It's easier to treat people the way they **treat** us.

"Do unto others as they have done unto me." 1 Dave 1:1

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.. Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

- It's easier care less than to be "**Care-full**".

You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for. Matthew 5:7

- It's easier to act naturally than to act **spiritually**.

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. John 15:12 (NLT)

...you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' Mark 12:30 (NLT)

The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'... Mark 12:31 (NLT)

**What that points out is:**

- Who we love **first** affects **how** we love second.

We can't live **in love** with God if we live **with hate** towards others.

If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both. 1 John 4:20-21 (MSG)

"You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and it's unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. Matthew 5:43-44 (MSG)

As the rocks rained down, Stephen prayed, "Master Jesus, take my life." Then he knelt down, praying loud enough for everyone to hear, "Master, don't blame them for this sin"—his last words. Then he died. Acts 7:59-60 (MSG)

When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that."In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you." Matthew 5:43-48 (MSG)

"..what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that." Ephesians 5:2

**How to respond when we're hated:**

- Don't be **surprised**.

This is my command: Love each other. "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. John 15:17-19 (NLT)

- Don't be **afraid**.

"If you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it, so don't be afraid and don't worry! Instead, worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it." 1 Peter 3:14-15 (NLT)

- Don't be **ashamed**.

"It is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Instead, thank God for the privilege of being called by his name!" 1 Peter 4:16 (NLT)

- Respond **spiritually**, not naturally.

If the one who hates you is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him water. If you do that, you will be making him more ashamed of himself." Romans 12:20(NLV)

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21 (ESV)

- Respond with a **blessing**, not cursing.

Jesus: "LOVE your enemies! DO GOOD to those who hate you. BLESS those who curse you. PRAY for those who hurt you. Luke 6:27b-29a (NLT)



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE  
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Why do we need a restored love for people in the world we live in and the times we live in? Do you need a restored love for people? What would that look like?
- Talk about the temptations we face.
- Why is it necessary to love our enemies? Read Acts 7:59-60; why was Stephen able to respond the way he did? What is another example from scripture of loving your enemy?
- Talk through the points under the sub-heading: "How to respond when you're hated"..

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Today's Talk..



RESTORED LOVE FOR PEOPLE