

# GREATER LOVE

- Jesus says that those who belong to him will have **greater love**.

...love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second command is this: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' Mark 12:30-31  
Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you. Luke 6:27

- God in you **provides** greater love through you.

#### God demonstrated greater love to us:

- God was willing for His son to **die** for you.

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. John 3:16 (CEV)

- Jesus willingly sacrificed his **life** for you.

But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. Galatians 3:13a

- Jesus left the splendors of heaven and became a man to **show you** greater love.

Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant. Philippians 2:6-7

Is the **church** God wants us to be reflected in the **people** we aspire to be?

You are created to **inspire** the lives of others.

"You are the salt of the earth",... "You are the light of the world"... Matthew 5:13-14 (ESV)

- God's desire to impact this world includes **you**.

- God's desires for this world reflect His **heart** for the world.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:9-10 (NLT)

Our gratitude to God compels us to **participate** with God.

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them... 2 Corinthians 5:18-19a (NLT)

- God's plan to use you will reflect God's **love in you**.

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when **we plead**, "**Come back to God!**" 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NLT)

- We give them a greater place in our **heart**.

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." Luke 19:10 (NLT)

#### Action Steps:

We **hang out** with them.

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to complain: "Look, this man welcomes sinners and even eats with them." Luke 15:2

We **listen** to them.

We **pray** for them.

...my heart's desire and prayer to God concerning them is for their salvation. Romans 10:1

- We are **real** with them.

#### Action Steps:

Acknowledge your **faults**.

Acknowledge your **struggles**.

Acknowledge your **needs**.

- We **include** them.

The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" So the people came streaming from the village to see him. John 4:28-30 (NLT)

#### Action Steps:

We **invite** people to come and see.

Come and see also communicates **Come with me**.

#### Our vision:

To Creatively **love** and **lead** people in a growing relationship with Jesus.

#### Questions we have to ask:

- What is my **expression** of love for the lost?
- What would **greater love** in me look like to the lost?



## 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?
- In your own words, what does it mean for us as Christ followers to have greater love? Why's greater love important?
- Which of the ways that God demonstrated greater love for you - stands out to you?
- When we mention "The Lost" - who does that refer to?
- Why should we have a greater love for those disconnected from God?
- Go over the Action Steps and talk about some practical way we can express a greater love for the lost.
- How does our vision require a greater love for the lost?

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Today's Talk..



**Loving the Lost**

Sunday, January 29th, 2023

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