

Choosing God is our daily choice.

14 "So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. <u>Serve the Lord alone</u>. 15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, <u>then choose today whom you will serve</u>. But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:14-15

• When we choose God, we choose **His ways**.

14 "So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Joshua 24:14

- I choose to Love.
- God's Spirit in us is the **source** of love that we give to others.

<u>But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love</u>, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22(NLT)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

 Is there any <u>attitude</u> in me that would prevent God's love from being expressed through me?

Let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. 1 John 3:18 (MSG)

How to know you need a real 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 temptations we face:

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

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

It's easier to 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.

...you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

What that points out to us is this:

Who we love <u>first</u> affects <u>how</u> 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

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)

How to respond with love when you're not loved: (Application Steps)

Don't be surprised when people have attitudes.

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 <u>afraid</u> when others treat you wrong.

"If you <u>suffer for doing what is right</u>, God will reward you for it, so <u>don't be afraid and don't worry!</u> Instead, <u>worship Christ as Lord</u> 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 <u>suffer for being a Christian</u>. Instead, thank God for the <u>privilege</u> of being called by his name!"1 Peter 4:16 (NLT)

• Respond to them **spiritually**, not naturally.

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.
- Is love a choice you make daily?
- Do you believe you love well? What does it mean to love well?
- Go through these notes and create some questions for discussion.
- Why is Love such an important expression from us?
- Why is it so important to love those who don't love us?
- Talk through the Application Steps.

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Today's Talk..



I choose to Love

Sunday, February 9th, 2025

