

Week 3: Learning to love like the teacher

In the first century AD, Jesus turned the prevailing understanding of love on its head. The true act of loving was to be forever redefined—back to how it was always intended. In Week 3, we will look at a number of ways in which the love Jesus lives out is different to much of what we might learn from the world and even the church.

Day 1

What does this mean in practice? (page 40)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
—John 15:12-13

Have you ever been “loved” in a way that wasn’t really what you needed at that time? What was it like?

Day 2

Primary and secondary virtues (pages 41-43)

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. —Matthew 23:27-28

Can you think of a time when you wanted to appear loving but were not truly motivated by compassion, trustworthiness, or acceptance?

Day 3

Strengths and liabilities of different cultures (pages 44-45)

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.
—Proverbs 14:34

How have you seen characteristics of your country’s or ethnic group’s color tendencies displayed by its leaders through history?

Day 4

Two different approaches in conflict (pages 46-47)

The LORD said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites.” —Hosea 3:1

What is an example in your life of when you have applied the ‘eros approach’ when the ‘agape approach’ was more appropriate?

Day 5

Love can be learned (pages 48-49)

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” —Matthew 18:1-4

Based on what you’ve learnt so far, how much time and energy would you be prepared to put into learning to receive and reflect God’s love better? How important is it? Do you consider this a priority?

Day 6

Your personal growth process (pages 50-52)

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. —John 15:1-2

Which of the eight practical suggestions do you think you will struggle with the most? Who could help you with this?

Day 7

Half way review day

Having reached the half-way point in the School of Love, return to the beginning of *The 3 Colors of Love* and read the topic headings at the top of each page. Without looking at the text, test yourself to see if you can recall one important point related to each topic. What stands out to you most in doing this review?



School of Love memory verse

Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?

Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Matthew 22:36-39



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