

CHRISTMAS for ALL

Week 4: LOVE
December 19, 2021

Galatians 5:22-23

²² The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control.

1 John 4:7-8

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸ But you are to be perfect, even as your father in heaven is perfect."

When God invites us to be like Him in loving people, He invites us to love people who are not necessarily easily or deserving of our love!

God's love is wide enough to take in both the victim & Victimizer.

Choosing to forgive someone and love them is not saying that what the other person did was right.

The Ancestors of Jesus the Messiah

¹ This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham: ² Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah. (whose mother was Tamar). Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram. ⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of salmon. ⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz (Whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse. ⁶ Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon. (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

Matthew 1: 1-6

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new life in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new life from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "FAITH" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].
Pastor Chris Conrad – December 19, 2021
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