



Love Does

Part 1 - Nothing Else Matters

Discussion Guide

Love. This word is used constantly today. From movies, music, social media, our sports teams, and virtually every romantic relationship we are in or have seen modeled: the word “love” is thrown around without a thought. But few words have deeper and more life-changing meaning. What does true love look like? This week we examine the attitude that nothing else matters, if we don’t love well.

Jump Start

1. In your opinion, what is the difference between really liking someone and loving someone?
2. *Nothing else matters.* Read [1 Corinthians 13:1-3](#). What is the big idea about love in this passage? For what other reasons do we do good things besides out of love? Have you experienced this before (either you do a good thing, but it lacks love, or someone has done a good thing for you, but it lacked love)? What does Paul mean when he says, “I am nothing”?
3. *What is love?* Read [John 3:16-17](#) and [John 15:12-13](#). According to this Scripture, what is required of love? How does the example of love set by God differ from the way our culture views love? Can true love be simply an emotion without action? What is the greatest demonstration of love you have given or received?
4. *Where is love?* Read [Galatians 5:22-23](#), [1 John 4:7-8](#), and [16-21](#). From where does love originate? Why do we so desire it? If our culture pushes us to pursue it above all else, why does this type of love seem to “wear off” or have limits in our lives today? How has God’s love changed you?
5. Final Thought: *Become Love.* Read [John 13:34-35](#). Have you lived up to this commandment? Have you displayed supernatural love, beyond your family? What has held you back from fully living out this commandment? How can we begin to make love a natural reflex?

Deeper

There are four different types of love we see in the Bible. Each word has a very different meaning in the original language. Yet in our culture and the English language, we just use one word: love. In order to better understand the complexity of love, we need to understand which type or version of “love” is being used and understand how that love differs from the other emotions. This week we will focus on “*agape*” love, the Greek word used in all the Scriptures below.

One thing to understand about *agape* is that it’s rooted in the idea of a love between God and his children. This is specifically different than “*storge*,” which is parental love within the family.

6. **Reread [John 3:16-17](#). Also, read [Romans 5:6-8](#).** What is surprising about the love of God described here? Are there limits to this type of love?

7. **Read [John 17:25-26](#).** What does the end of this passage mean? Can this love be transferred or contagious?

8. **Read [2 Corinthians 5:14-21](#):** The love of God controls / compels us to do what? What else do we learn about *agape* love in this passage?

9. **Read [Matthew 22:37-39](#), [John 14:21](#) and [Matthew 5:43-44](#).** How can we express love back to God? Can we *agape* love God? Who else are we to love? Are there any exceptions? Criteria?