

Learning to Love

John 13:33-35

INTRODUCTION:

Jack Hyles

I cannot love you as I love myself until I love God as I ought to love Him.

Learning to love is like learning to listen, there aren't many classes on it because people assume they are already good at it. Loving and listening are elements of human existence that need to be trained and no one better to learn how to love than from Love Himself.

Society, as I have said before, has bought into Hollywood's definition of love which is a cheap thrill to the fallen heart at best. It contains all the ingredients that are anti-love such as no commitment, self-centered, feelings-based only, without depth or investment, like cotton candy which looks good, tastes good for the moment, but disappears quickly. The arts of culture have tainted the mind of many because we see love like the thrill of a roller coaster, once the thrill is gone, we move on to the next.

This morning I want us since our culture is celebrating a holiday about love to look into Scripture and recognize what real love actually is and then we may discover what we have settled for in the past.

C.S. Lewis

"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

John 13:33-35

³³ Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. ³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”¹

I. Love is Intentional

David Wilkerson

Love is not only something you feel but also something you do.

John 3:16

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.²

Amy Carmichael

You can always give without loving, but you can never love without giving.

II. Love is Insightful

Gary Chapman, *The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate*

“Our most basic emotional need is not to fall in love but to be genuinely loved by another, to know a love that grows out of reason and choice, not instinct. I need to be loved by someone who chooses to love me, who sees in me something worth loving. That kind of love requires effort and discipline. It is the choice to expend energy in an effort to benefit the other person, knowing that if his or her life is enriched by your effort, you too will find a sense of satisfaction—the satisfaction

¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Jn 13:33–35). Tyndale House Publishers.

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Jn 3:16). Tyndale House Publishers.

of having genuinely”

III. Love is an Investment

Jack Hyles

Love is the doorway through which the human soul passes from selfishness to service.

Rick Warren

Learning to love unselfishly is not an easy task. It runs counter to our self-centered nature.

Rick Warren

The best use of life is love. The best expression of love is time. The best time to love is now.

R.C. Sproul

In the New Testament, love is more of a verb than a noun. It has more to do with acting than with feeling. The call to love is not so much a call to a certain state of feeling as it is to a quality of action.

IV. Love is Incarnational

Dwight L. Moody

The world does not understand theology or dogma, but it understands love and sympathy.

Acts 20:35 NLT

You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

Jack Hyles

Being loved is life's second greatest blessing; loving is the greatest.

John 15:13

There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Gary Chapman, *The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate*

“I would encourage you to make your own investigation of the one whom, as He died, prayed for those who killed Him: 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do.' That is love's ultimate expression.”