

# **BECOMING LIKE JESUS**



## **11.19.17 | A Triad of Christlikeness (Part 3: Loving)**

**1 John 2:7-8; 3:16-18; 4:7-12, 16b-17**

### **1 John 2:7-8**

7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

### **1 John 3:16-18**

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers

and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

### **1 John 4:7-12**

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

### **1 John 4:16b-17**

16b God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

## **1 John Is a Book About Love:**

God is love.

Love comes from God.

Jesus is God's love shown to us.

Love is seen in Jesus' life and death for us.

To know God is to love Him.

To love God is to love others.

Without love, we cannot know God.

To love is to be like Jesus.

## **1) God Is Both the Source of Love and the Very Definition of Love**

### **Exodus 34:5-7**

5 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

Love: *hesed* ("Steadfast Love")

## **2) Jesus Is the Model of Love**

### **Deuteronomy 6:4**

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

### **John 13:34**

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- Jesus

## **3) We Are Given the Command to Love**

### **1 John 3:16-18**

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

## **Triad of Christlikeness:**

- Knowing Jesus
- Obeying Jesus
- Loving Like Jesus

## **What Were the Practices of Jesus?**

- Solitude and silence
- Prayer
- Simple and sacrificial living
- Intense study and meditation upon God's word and God's ways
- Service to others, especially the poor and marginalized

### **LEVEL ONE:**

Knowing Jesus, learning to follow Him, and taking in our life His life, practices, and teachings. Meditating on them. Building a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus.

### **LEVEL TWO:**

Obeying Jesus — bringing your life into conformity with all that Jesus taught. This is keeping your moral lives in line with Jesus' teachings. Practicing justice and charity in your life.

### **LEVEL THREE:**

Love like Jesus

“Our mistake is to think that following Jesus consists in loving our enemies, going the ‘second mile,’ turning the other cheek, suffering patiently and hopefully—while living the rest of our lives just as everyone around us does.”

- Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines*