



COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Love, not spiritual practices, is the measure for spiritual maturity

HEAD CHANGE: The greatest gift we can give the world is to learn to love well.

HEART CHANGE: Love people well requires learning to delight in people

LIFE CHANGE: Be willing to stop mind reading, clarify expectations, and recognize your own brokenness

OVERVIEW

It is possible to have profound spiritual experiences and still lack a deeply present love for people. It is possible to be chronologically thirty-five or fifty-five or seventy-five but still function as an emotional infant or child in his or her relationships. In other words, emotional health and spiritual maturity are inseparable. In this teaching, we learn to make love, not our spiritual practices, the measure for spiritual maturity. But we cannot learn to love well without becoming more emotionally mature.

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

-John 13:34-35 NLT-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some important things that stuck out for you from the teaching?
2. Sometimes life can make it difficult to distinguish between loving people for who they are versus using them for how they contribute to the "mission." Complete the following sentences:
 - *I know I'm loving people for who they are when...*
 - *I know I'm using people for how they contribute to the mission when...*
3. How can "Clarifying expectations" within your relationships result in loving people well? Can you describe a time when you expected something of someone but never told them? How did that result in frustration and a lack of love?
4. Jordan said, "One of the best ways to measure our own brokenness is to consider how offendable you are." How offendable are you? What are some things that offend you more easily? How does the 'Jesus Prayer' remind you to love well? (The 'Jesus Prayer': Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.)

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me to be still before you. Teach me to love people as Jesus loves people. Help me to identify my feelings and name them for what they are and give me the courage to be honest before you and my trusted friends & family. I ask that you would help us, as a church family, to stay faithful to the journey of learning to love people well. In Jesus' name, amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!