

CATALYST

<http://adamsblvd.org/catalyst-class/>




Love



- ▶ Love is Essential
- ▶ Love is Sacrificial

- ▶ Love is not
- ▶ without love

- ▶ Love is Unreasonable
- ▶ Love is Wild



A person will express love in same pattern and proportion to the love that they received.

We are limited by the ways we have received love.

those forgiven much, love much,
those forgiven little, love very little. Luke 7:47



Luke 15

The story of the 2 lost sons and their prodigal father





the reckless raging fury that they call
the love of God.

- Rich Mullins





Love is wild,
it doesn't fit in civilized society.





Love is wild,
it doesn't fit in civilized society.


Love is unreasonable.



Love is wild,
it doesn't fit in civilized society.

Love is unreasonable.

But it is attainable.



If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

Jeremiah 20:9



The LORD your God is a consuming fire,
a Jealous God

Deuteronomy 4:24




Fear vs Wonder





fear sees God as a punisher





“When the law dictates compliance you need the presence of a punisher to protect those laws;
but my heart connected to your heart, my decisions are designed to protect your heart.”

Danny Silk, Loving Your Kids on Purpose



I am my beloved's and his **desire** is for me.

Song of Songs 7:10

אָנִי לְדוֹדִי וְעָלִי תִשׁוּקָתוֹ



I am my beloved's and *his desire is for me*.

- The drumbeats of doom in your head will be replaced by a song in your heart, which could lead to a twinkle in your eye.
- You will not be dependent on the company of others to ease your loneliness, for He is Emmanuel – God with us.
- The praise of others will not send your spirit soaring, nor will their criticism plunge you into the pit. Their rejection may make you sick but it will not be a sickness unto death.
- In a significant interior development, you will move from I should pray to I must pray.

- Brennan Manning, *The Furious Longing of God*



I am my beloved's and *his desire is for me.*

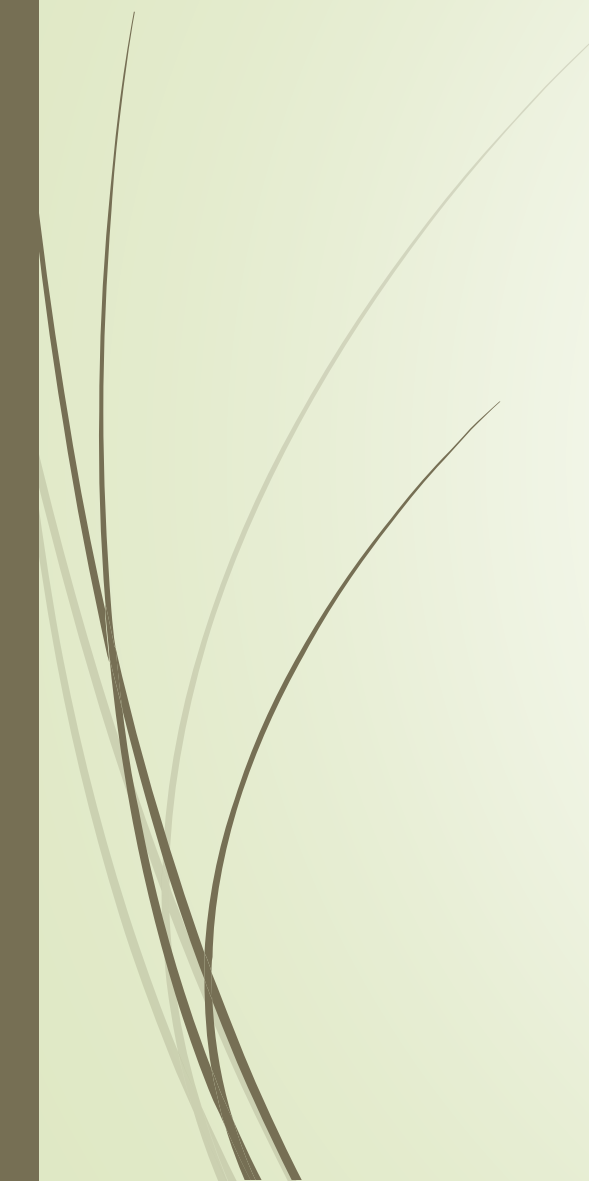
- You will live with an awareness that the Father not only loves you, but like you.
- You will stop comparing yourself with others. In the same way you will not trumpet your own importance, boast about your victories in the vineyard, or feel superior to anyone.
- You will read Zephaniah 3:17-18 and see God dancing for joy because of you.
- Off and on throughout the day, you will just know that you are being seen by Jesus with a gaze of infinite tenderness.

- Brennan Manning, [The Furious Longing of God](#)





I am my beloved's and *his desire is for me.*



Yahweh your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you Zephaniah 3:17-18




Love is grounded in the moment

- ▶ John 11:35 Jesus wept - why?
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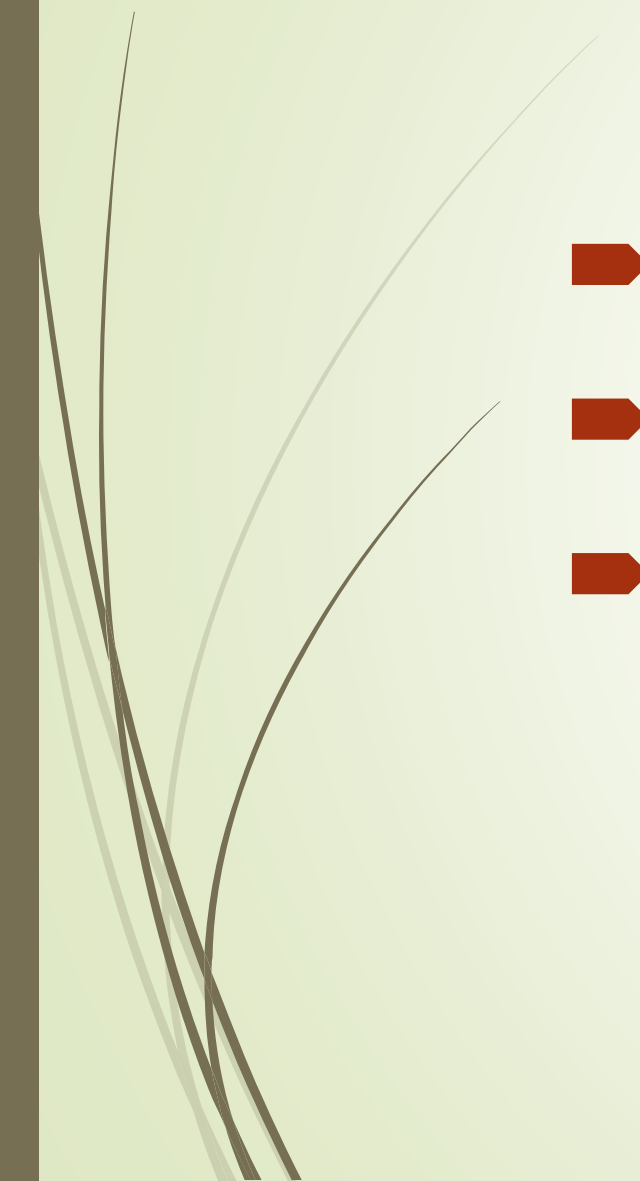


Love is grounded in the moment

- ▶ John 11:35 Jesus wept - why?
 - ▶ Romans 8:26-27 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.
- 



Extraordinary cost of Love

- Investing requires start-up capital.
 - The cost of adoption
 - The cost of discipleship
- 



Extraordinary cost of Love

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one.

CS Lewis, The Four Loves



Unconditional Love is not comfortable

We must be healed and make peace with the worst of our past.

The fears, regrets and hurts of past trauma must be healed.

The same God in our future was there in our past.

We have to make peace with our past in order to unconditionally love God.



A loving community

*Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common... There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. **Acts 4:32-35***



A loving community

A loving community is formed by people who care about each other and are **aggressively** seeking ways to meet each other's needs.

They share life together. They talk together, cry together, laugh together, play together, pray together and study together.

Through living out their faith together, they can't help but get to know each other's struggles and successes and when they see a need they are compelled to act, because that's what love does.

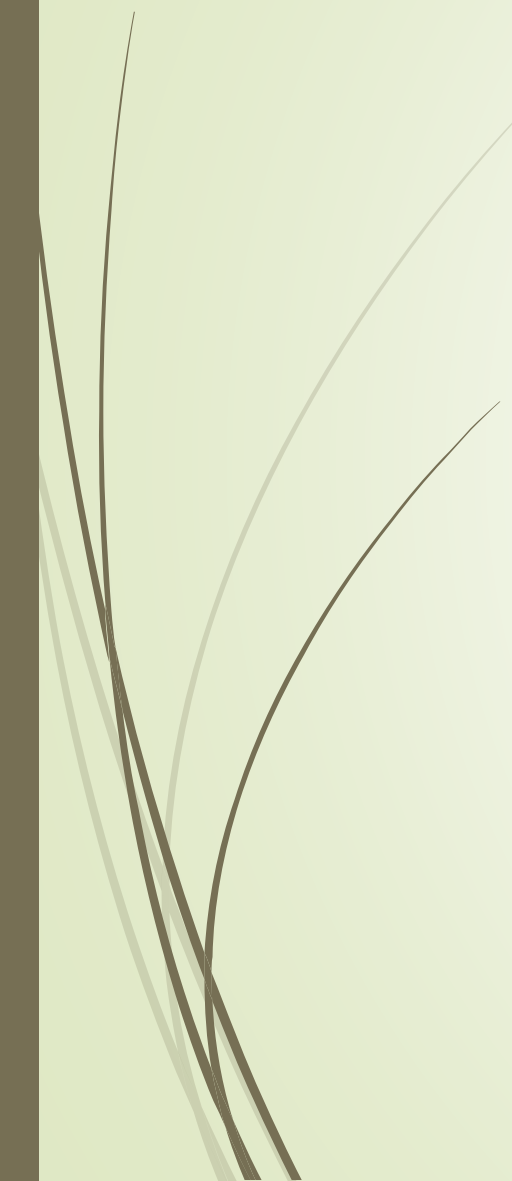


A loving community

- ▶ Not mutual self interest not just trade,
 - ▶ certainly not taking
- ▶ Receives and Gives
 - ▶ out of its delight and gratitude
 - ▶ Love gives from a place of peace and it creates a place of peace, fear is dispelled in the expressing of love.



Love is

- the center of Jesus' program,
 - the entirety of Jesus' law, and
 - the defining characteristic of his disciples
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