

Introducing, Jesus



JESUS IS LOVE.

Everyone is born with a need to be loved.

This does not mean we come out of the womb craving a *Notebook* style romance - that would be weird - but it does mean we all have an innate desire connection.

Maslows's Hierarchy of Needs lists "love" as the third most basic need for a human - immediately following the tough competition of physiological (ie. breathing and not starving to death), and safety (ie. no real threat of bombs or starving to death). We agree that breathing is pretty critical this side of heaven.

We all need love. But humans often fail us in the category. They forget, they don't show up, they say hurtful words. Even when were trying our hardest, we simply don't have it in us to love perfectly.

But Jesus does. Jesus remains. He is love. Unconditionally. Eternally. Even when it doesn't exactly make sense to us.

Check out what the Bible has to say about love in the verses below.

IN THE BIBLE.

John 15: 1-17

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) Who has the roles of Gardener, Vine, and Branches? What do these roles mean?
- 2.) What does it mean to "remain" in Jesus?
- 3.) Did any section of the verses above surprise you? Why?
- 4.) How can you love Jesus and people better this week?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?