

Life is Good

LOVE MUCH • Part 3 • March 19, 2017 • #LifelsGood

"He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much..."
—Bessie Anderson Stanley, 1904

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. —Jesus (John 3:16)

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" —Jesus (Matthew 22:36–39)

WHY IT'S SO HARD

Don't assume that you know it all. Run to GOD! (Proverbs 3:1-2,7 The Message)

LOVE MUCH

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. (1 John 3:16)

"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 (John 13:34–35)

Make love your greatest aim... (1 Corinthians 14:1, TLB)

1. Experience _____

"Therefore I say to you, her many sins have been forgiven, for she loved much. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." —Jesus (Luke 7:47, NKJV/NIV)

We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

2. Don't wait for _____

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them.... (Matthew 9:35–36)

3. Train your eyes to _____

Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?" Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man. "A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.' "What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?" "The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded. Jesus said, "Go and do the same." —Jesus (Luke 10:29–37, The Message)

Every person we encounter is either...

- ✓ A _____
- ✓ A _____
- ✓ A _____

4. Do _____

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God's hand for that person. Don't tell your neighbor "Maybe some other time" or "Try me tomorrow" when the money's right there in your pocket. (Proverbs 3:27–28, The Message)

Love is intentionally doing something _____ or _____ for someone, regardless of the _____ or _____

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Make love your greatest aim... (1 Corinthians 14:1, TLB)

1. Experience God's love personally.

"Therefore I say to you, her many sins have been forgiven, for she loved much. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." —Jesus (Luke 7:47, NKJV/NIV)

We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

2. Don't wait for the feeling.

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them.... (Matthew 9:35–36)

3. Train your eyes to see people differently.

Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?" Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man. "A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.' "What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?" "The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded. Jesus said, "Go and do the same." —Jesus (Luke 10:29–37, The Message)

Every person we encounter is either...

- ✓ A victim to exploit.
- ✓ A problem to avoid.
- ✓ A person to be loved.

4. Do something!

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God's hand for that person. Don't tell your neighbor "Maybe some other time" or "Try me tomorrow" when the money's right there in your pocket. (Proverbs 3:27–28, The Message)

Love is intentionally doing something caring or helpful for someone, regardless of the cost or consequence.



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