



## Review | But I Won't Do That

What matters is not how gifted we are but how loving we are. Activity does not determine effectiveness in the church. Without love all of our good endeavors are meaningless. More than that, it ultimately leaves us bankrupt. Jesus is everything we are not. We are nothing without love. But when we know Jesus, who does nothing without love, he will help us love the way he loves.

1. Love of Self-Satisfied : What He Didn't Do
2. Love of the Savior : What He Did
3. Love of the Spiritual : What We Should Do

## Discussion Questions

1. What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text? How did the Spirit move you to respond?
2. Talk about a time when someone outside your family did something loving for you. What made that act or expression of love meaningful to you?
3. What might differ in your church if this chapter were applied primarily to love for other members of the body of Christ rather than to the love between spouses?
4. What distinguishes acts of mercy done without love from those that are motivated by love? Can the recipient or an observer tell the difference?
5. In 1 Corinthians 13.1, we are told that spiritual gifts offered without love are like a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. In what ways is a loveless Christian like a noisy gong? How would a person with faith and knowledge but without love come across to unbelievers?
6. What was the young man's motivation in asking Jesus how he could be saved? Explain from Mark 10.17-27.
7. How can you see Jesus' love for the man in Mark 10?
8. In Mark 10 Jesus responded to the man's question by telling him that he needed to love his neighbor. Ultimately, the young man failed the test of love because he was unwilling to sell all his possessions and give the money to the poor. Why was this man unable to give up what he had?
9. Thinking more broadly, why is it especially difficult for wealthy people to enter the kingdom of God? What spiritual challenges do they face poor people do not?
10. In 1 Corinthians 13.3, we read that merely giving up our possessions to the poor is not enough. What else is needed? Why are good deeds insufficient without love?
11. Think of the last time you were confronted by a stranger's needs. Did you pass the 'love' test? If not, what stood in your way?

12. What limits are you tempted to put on your love? What can you do to remove some of those limits and truly love your neighbor as yourself?

## **Digging Deeper**

1. Read Matthew 22:34-40. What makes loving God the greatest command?
2. Is there a limit to your love for Christ? His church? The lost?
3. What are some ways we can make sure that we practice our spiritual gifts in love?
4. What is one relationship in which you need to add love this week? How are you going to do that?
5. What are some ways you can remind yourself of Jesus' love this week?
6. Why is it essential that we remember that all people are created in the image of God? How does doing so help us exercise kindness in love?
7. How has God shown His kindness to us? What is the appropriate response to God's kindness?

## **Prayer**

1. Pray that God's people would look to the Father above for comfort and good hope through grace (2 Thessalonians 2:16).
2. Pray that God's people would confess failures to love others and begin to reflect the love of Christ to others.
3. Pray for the return of small groups to promote Christian maturity and ministry in the church.
4. Pray that we would be God's ambassadors of reconciliation to the world around us (2 Cor 5:20).
5. Confess that we are not the lovers we ought to be. Ask for his forgiveness. Ask him to teach our loveless hearts to love the way that he loves.

## Afterword & Response

- **ABOUT GOD** | What does this passage specifically teach about God?

- **ABOUT MYSELF** | What does this passage teach about myself?


- **NEXT STEPS** | What does this passage lead me to do next in response?



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