

TITLE AND NUMBER: 27. Love is costly

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): John 15:9-11,16-17



"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 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." (v 9-10)

"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. This is my command: Love each other." (v 16-17)

LOOKING FURTHER: John 15:9-17, John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

What does this Bible passage tell us?

In everyday language, 'love' is used to express our emotions towards many things around us; love for our favourite sports team, or our prized possessions (for example a car, house or pet). We also use the same word to express our emotion towards our priceless relationships; love for our partner, children, siblings and parents. Despite this common use, and the varying weights of emotion involved, the feeling involved is clear; we hold those involved dearly.

In this passage, Jesus helps us to understand that love is not just a feeling, but must be shown in our actions.

First, there is a price attached to love. Second, our willingness to pay the price will show if the love we feel is true or not. If we love Jesus, obeying His command is both the price and proof of our love (v10). Sometimes doing the right thing is costly to us.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, which Jesus told in Luke 10, the Samaritan shows love to someone who was traditionally his enemy. Jesus tells us to go and do the same, regardless of who they are or what they have done. We do this with God's help.

Reflections:

- Do you know that you are valued and loved by God? If you are not sure, try and talk to one of the chaplains.
- Which of Jesus's commands are you struggling to keep? (Make time to ask for His help in prayer).
- Which of your relationships are loving? (List them and thank God for each of them).
- What makes those relationships loving?
- What actions are important to maintain those relationships?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



What have you seen God do in response to your prayers this week?

