

May 30th, I'm Sorry?

Part 3 in the series 'Love Handles'

Read John 15:12

12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

Earlier in his life, Jesus taught to love your neighbors the way you love yourself. Why do you think he updated that command? (Jesus loves you more than you love yourself).

Read John 15:13

13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

What are some greater acts of love?

What are some lesser acts of love?

What is the difference between the greater acts and the lesser acts?

Read Matthew 5:23 - 24

23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, **24** leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Why would Jesus teach people to reconcile with others before worshipping God?

What does it mean to apologize?

Why is apologizing an act of love?

Why is it so difficult?

Romans 14:19 Therefore, let's keep on pursuing those things that bring peace and that lead to building up one another.

Why does apologizing bring peace?

What is the disarming technique? What effect does it have? How can you find truth in what people say even when what they say is outlandish?

Why does including words of affirmation enhance the effect of the disarming technique?

Using the disarming technique and words of affirmation, how would you respond to someone who says:

You never listen!

You don't care about me!

You're so lazy!

How can you express the ways you have felt wronged by someone else in a loving way?

Read James 4:6

“God gives grace to the humble, but opposes the proud”

Why is this an important verse to remember when apologizing?