



## \*Said No One Ever Week 2 –Who Knew Marriage Was This Easy? Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).

### Scripture:

"But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. <sup>28</sup> Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. <sup>30</sup> Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

<sup>32</sup> "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! <sup>33</sup> And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! <sup>34</sup> And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

<sup>35</sup> "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.

Luke 6:27-35

### Reflection Questions:

- If someone who knows you well had to say one thing that you love, what would they say? What's one thing that you absolutely love (and everyone around you knows it)?
- What is your honest reaction to hearing a teaching on marriage at church?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Read through the different words for love below:
  - *storge*= Instinctual, protective love
  - *eros*= Erotic love
  - *phileo*= Brotherly affection kind of love
  - *agape*= It's the kind of love that's **least like a feeling** and much **more of an action**

Take a moment to jot down an example from your own life when you have experienced each type of love.

How does it help to have more words for love?

- Read through Luke 6:27-35.
  - How does Jesus' description of love for enemies challenge you?
  - Chip referred to this kind of love as "divine love." How does this kind of love reflect God's love?
- Read this quote by C.S. Lewis that compares the experience of being in love in the early stages of a relationship to the behavior to live out that commitment: "Being in love" first moved [the couple] to promise fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run: being in love was the explosion that started it." This quote challenges some cultural assumptions about the nature of "being in love" and a quieter, more mature type of love rooted in commitment. How do you react to this?
- Chip shared, "Lasting compatibility is created, not discovered." How can you create compatibility? (If you are married, write down some practical examples of how you can move toward unity and compatibility with your spouse.)
- Chip also shared a quote from Gary Thomas: "Marriage isn't designed to make you happy, it's designed to make you holy, more Christlike." How might marriage (and loving people in the ways Jesus describes in Luke 6) be something God uses to make us more like Jesus?
- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Take time to pray as you close your reflection or discussion, asking God to help you act on what he has asked you to do.

## Resources

Looking for some ways to grow and be stretched spiritually? Check out our highlighted resources at [www.wschurch.org/resources](http://www.wschurch.org/resources).

## Message Main Points and Scripture:

- "Marriage is incredibly easy."\* (said no one ever)
- *"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried."* — G.K. Chesterton
- What does the word "love" even mean?
- *storge*= Instinctual, protective love
- *eros*= Erotic love
- *phileo*= Brotherly affection kind of love
- *agape*= It's the kind of love that's **least like a feeling** and much **more of an action**
- Luke 6:27-35 - "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.<sup>28</sup> Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.<sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also.<sup>30</sup> Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back.<sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would like them to do to you.  
<sup>32</sup> "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them!<sup>33</sup> And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!<sup>34</sup> And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.  
<sup>35</sup> "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked."
- Although the feeling of being in love might be fleeting, it inspires a kind of love that is not.
- *"Being in love" first moved [the couple] to promise fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run: being in love was the explosion that started it.* – CS Lewis
- Living together is a **CONDITIONAL** arrangement that operates on **COMPATIBILITY**.
- Marriage is an **UNCONDITIONAL** arrangement that operates on **COMMITMENT**.
- Lasting compatibility is created, not discovered.

- **Right feelings follow right actions.**
- Galatians 6:7 – “A man reaps what he sows.”
- Galatians 6:9 – “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”
- *“Marriage isn’t designed to make you happy, it’s designed to make you holy, more Christlike.”- Gary Thomas*