

THE ANSWER: THE MOTIVATING LOVE OF GOD

LESSON SIX FAMILY

“That’s her ‘trademark.’” Ever heard that before? There are certain things that mark certain people that they become known for. A trademark is defined in the Encarta Dictionary as a distinctive characteristic associated with a person or group of people. What comes to mind when you think about the following people: Tiger Woods; Sasha and Malea Obama; Ryan Seacrest? It’s pretty easy to come up with their trademark.

So what’s your trademark? Do others look at you and say, “He’s known for this, that, or the other?” If so, what would it be? More than anything Jesus wanted believers to be known for our love for others. That’s our trademark as His people.

Enlist a family member to read Romans 13:8-10. Paul’s letter to the Romans is very direct about how to live the Christian life. It’s impossible to love and obey God without loving His people. Jesus taught that loving others was the second greatest command. But, Jesus did not just teach about love, He lived it. In Scripture we see Him loving the unlovely, listening to the hurting, speaking to the outcast, and meeting people’s needs in simple and miraculous ways. He has every right to ask us to love because He lived it out on this earth and because of His great love for us. He also gives us the power to obey Him by pouring His love in our hearts, making it possible for us to love others.

Just as God’s love is unending in our lives, loving others should be a priority the day we die. If we care for others the way we care for ourselves we will have no problem fulfilling God’s Law regarding relationships. God is at work in the lives of His people to be and do what He is—Love. We’re to be this at home, at work, at school, out in the world so others will see Him.

The Message puts it this way: “Love others as well as you do yourself. You can’t go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love.” Love was His trademark of His life and ministry and He wants it to be the trademark of our life as well.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

1. “Love your neighbor as yourself” is one of the Ten Commandments that most people are taught as children. It’s a pretty easy phrase to understand. But why is “Love your neighbor as yourself” an easier phrase to comprehend than to live out on a daily basis?
2. Read the following lyrics by Brandon Heath found in the song “Give me your eyes” (found on Lyricsmania.com)
Give me your eyes for just one second, - Give me your eyes so I can see
Everything that I keep missing, - Give me your love for humanity, - Give me your arms for the broken-hearted
The ones that are far beyond my reach, - Give me your heart for the ones forgotten, - Give me your eyes so I can see.
How does this song apply to—
 - The way we treat people who serve us in a restaurant or drive-thru?
 - The way we treat each other at home?
 - The way we treat friends going through crisis?
 - The way we treat our co-workers?
 - The way we treat strangers while we’re at the mall or grocery store?
3. What are some practical ways other people have shown their love to you? How can you begin to share what you’ve learned from them?
4. Who is one person in your life that really needs to be shown the love of God? What you can do this week to express God’s love to them? How can you as a family hold each other accountable to this?
5. Consider the following statement made by Lloyd Ogilvie, former Chaplain of the US Senate and former Pastor of First Presbyterian Church Hollywood, CA.
“What if we gave ourselves away as if in each person we were meeting here was our Lord Himself?”

(Bio info from www.drllloydjohnogilvie.com and quote from the book *Holy Sweat* by Tim Hansel)

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