

Freed to Love

In Gratitude, Not Greed

February 14, 2021 / Chris Johnson

How do you know if someone loves you?

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16, NIV**

God shows me that true love looks to _____, not _____.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved...
Colossians 3:12a, NIV

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8, NIV**

God's unconditional love frees us from the law of

_____ in our _____. We are freed to _____ because we have been _____.

¹² Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **Colossians 3:12b, NIV**

We make a _____ about God's kind of love when we wear these kinds of spiritual "clothes" in our _____ and _____.

¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **Colossians 3:13-14, NIV**

God's unconditional love frees us to _____ and not _____ when someone hurts us.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. **Romans 12:17-19, NIV**

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **Colossians 3:15-16, NIV**

God's unconditional love frees us to be _____ and _____ - _____ in our relationships.

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17, NIV**

God's unconditional love frees us from a _____ relationship to a _____ - _____ relationship in which everything we do is done with _____ not _____.

MEMORY VERSE

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17, NIV**

My next step: I will make a statement about God's kind of love by wearing the spiritual "clothes" of gratitude and grace in all that I do and say.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

Impact Groups

Freed to Love: In Gratitude, Not Greed

Getting Started: What is your favorite song about love? (Sing part of it if you can! ☺)

Going back to Sunday

What truth from Sunday's message was most impactful for you? How has the truth made a difference in your thinking, your emotions, or your words and actions this week?

Read Colossians 3:12

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **Colossians 3:12, NIV**

How does God's love release us from the law of reciprocity (aka the Golden Rule) in relationships? What impact does this have on our relationships?

What people wear makes a statement. What statement do we make when we wear these spiritual clothes?

Read Colossians 3:13-14

¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **Colossians 3:13-14, NIV**

If you have been deeply hurt by someone, forgiving him, or her, might be extremely difficult. Why? (Think of self-talk, emotions, and actions we have referenced in the past.)

What have you found that helps when you struggle with forgiving someone?

Read Colossians 3:15-16

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the

message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **Colossians 3:15-16, NIV**

Cultural philosophy tells us, "Do whatever you want, just don't talk to me about what I might be doing wrong." As Christians, God calls us to confront sin in a loving way. What are some practical tips you can give your group about how to do this with love?

Read Colossians 3:17

¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17, NIV**

What impact does living in a thankful relationship with the Lord have on all of our other relationships?

My Next Step

Think of your relationships like a bank account. We make "deposits" in a relationship when we show God's love to them. We also make "withdrawals" at times when we sin against someone. Is there someone in your life who needs a "deposit" from you? How will you make that deposit?

Doing Life Together

Let's make deposits in our relationships with our neighbors. How can we, as a group, show that we love our neighbors? Create a list and then pick one to do together, if possible.

Prayer

Pray together as a group for about 10 minutes. Many groups do this in a circle format, allowing each person in the circle to pray or pass as they wish until all have had a chance to pray.

Reminders

Mark your calendars for March 7 and help spread the word. We will be re-opening CrossWalk Kids from **babies** to 5th grade at the 9am service!