

Putting Love into Practice – Feb. 24, 2021

We're here on this planet for 1 purpose – love. Love God, love each other
How do we put into practice what Jesus taught/said about love? 4 ways

1. Be a Person of Love who Loves All People

The South - most fervent in religious faith & most enthusiastic of white supremacy.

Eph. 2:14 – “For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.”

- **Time to unite as one people.** Time to acknowledge all lives matter.
- There is no difference that should divide us as people. Still child/God.
 - o Think about this: over 18,000 types of birds. Still birds.
(hummingbirds, eagles, parrots, owls, finches, cardinals, robins...)
- **Acts 10:34** – Peter understood that “God shows no partiality.” Jesus was w/Samaritan woman & Jewish men; robbers & rabbis.
- **Gal. 3:26-29** – “All of you are God’s children because of your faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷And when you were baptized, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on new clothes. ²⁸Faith in Christ Jesus is what makes each of you equal with each other, whether you are a Jew or a Greek, a slave or a free person, a man or a woman. ²⁹So if you belong to Christ, you are now part of Abraham’s family. . . .”
 - See the world as believers & non-believers. Focus there.

2. No Fear in Love

1 John 4:16-18 – “God is love, & all who live in love live in God, & God lives in them. ¹⁷And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. ¹⁸Such love has no fear, b/c perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.”

- People shouldn't have to fear those they love.
- Don't be that boss or supervisor.
- Children should never fear a parent's love will end.
- Spouses should not fear your faithfulness or devotion. Love Forever.

3. Get Rid of Anger

- It's more than just not giving in to anger or acting on it.
- What's in our hearts is just as important as what we do.

Matt. 5:21-22 – MSG – “²¹⁻²² “You're familiar with the command to the ancients, 'Do not murder.' I'm telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother 'idiot!' and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell 'stupid!' at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire. The simple moral fact is that words kill.”

- **Our words matter; the names we call each other matter.**
- Self-control is good, but thought control is better.
- **Eph. 4:31** – “Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.”
- **Luke 6:45** – “the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.”
 - Our words show what's in our hearts.
- Anger is a dangerous foothold for the enemy.
 - Focus instead on God's love for you, His love for others

4. Love isn't just Words; It's Action

I John 3:16-18 – “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

- Love responds and acts. Talk is cheap & words are empty.
 - **1 Cor. 13:1-3** - “If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”
 - **Love must act, and love must be in our actions.**
 - Struggling? God is the source of love. Get in touch w/Him

