

## Returning to Love, Law, and Loving the Law, Part II

### I. Getting from the Old Testament Law to Jesus

“This is how the law leads us to the gospel: it condemns us for our sin so that we start looking for some sort of legal remedy, and then we discover that God has provided one for us in Jesus Christ. Jesus can do what the law cannot do, and that is to save us. ‘God has done what the law, weakened by flesh, could not do. . . sending his own Son.’ Rom. 8:3—Written in Stone

### II. Introductory stuff – Context and Vocabulary for I Corinthians 13

**A. Context of the situation:** The Corinthians were not very loving toward each other.

**Context of the text:** Proper Order in Worship → Different Spiritual Gifts → What does Love Look Like?

**B. Vocabulary:** Love =. *Agape* in Greek.

“The Greek word *agape* was not in common use before Christians chose it to express the characteristically Christian virtue. More common were words that mean fondness among friends and relatives (*philia*), affection between parent and child (*storge*), or passion between lovers (*eros*). But *agape* was the word Greek-speaking Jews used to express the love between God and His covenant people.

In secular Greek, it represented a love in which the mind analyzes and the will chooses the object to be loved. Thus, it is not a term wholly given to emotion, but it involves the whole man, emotions, intellect, and will. *Agape* is a deliberate, free act that is the decision of the subject rather than the result of unbidden, overpowering emotion.” --LifeChange Study: I Corinthians.

### III. Small Group Study I – Characteristics of Love

Read I Corinthians 13:1-8

1. Why are all gifts and talents worthless without love? What does this say about God’s heart for his people?

(continue with the chart; I’ll make the chart page 2 of the handout)

#### **IV. Small Group Study II – Jesus Loves Perfectly (unlike some others, like his disciples)**

Read Mark 6:30 – 44

1. When the boat landed in the “deserted place,” what do you think was the disciple’s reaction? What was Jesus’ reaction?
2. Where do the disciples have trouble loving well?
3. Where does the crowd have trouble loving well? (Read also John 6:15 right after the feeding of the 5,000. Also read John 6:22-30)
4. How does Jesus love in a way that embodies I Cor. 13? The 10 commandments?
5. Who in the story do you find yourself identifying with the most? Why?
6. How do you experience being loved by Jesus?

**Love begins not with loving but with being loved. Being loved gives you the freedom and the resources to love. We can only give what we have received. – Paul Miller, Love Walked Among Us, p. 165**