

GIVE YOURSELF TO LOVE

May 10, 2020 Eph. 3:17-19; John 15:9-14 Bob Branch
Mother's Day 2020

People need to be filled.

What do you fill yourself with? Does it satisfy you?

BIG IDEA: Give yourself to love and love's dimensions will open up to you.

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." **Ephesians 3:17-19**

¹ _____ **down into God's deep love.**

² **Build your life on the** _____ **of love.**

³ _____ **of his love.**

⁴ **In all its DIMENSIONS.**

Go wide. Go long. Go high. Go deep.

⁵ _____ **this love.**

⁶ **An INVITATION TO FULLNESS.**

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command." **Jn. 15:9-14**

⁷ **Give yourself to** _____.

⁸ **LAY YOUR LIFE DOWN for others.**

⁹ _____ **to you.**

1. **Assess:** What is competing with love?

2. **Invest.** Daily pray yourself into love.

3. **Practice.** When you notice a need, jump in.

STOP CHASING WHAT WON'T LAST.

What would your life be like...?

ORIENT YOURSELF TO LOVING WELL

Matthew 5:43-48 ""You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, **love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you**, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? **Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**"

Matthew 22:37-40 "Jesus replied: "'**Love the Lord your God with all your heart** and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: '**Love your neighbor as yourself.**' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.""

John 16:27 "**the Father himself loves you** because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God."

Galatians 5:6, 13-14 "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. **The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love...** You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, **serve one another humbly in love**. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**"

Romans 8:35-39 "**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, **in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us**. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**"

1 John 3:1 "See what **great love the Father has lavished on us**, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

1 John 3:11 "For this is the message you heard from the beginning: **We should love one another.**"

1 John 3:14 "**We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.**"

1 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.** 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?** **Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.**"

1 John 4:7-12 "Dear friends, **let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been**

born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is **how God showed his love among us:** He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.** Dear friends, **since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.** No one has ever seen God; but if **we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.**"

1 John 4:16-21 "And so **we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.** This is **how love is made complete among us** so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: **In this world we are like Jesus.** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And **he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.**"

1 John 5:2-3 "This is **how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.** In fact, **this is love for God: to keep his commands.** And his commands are not burdensome,"

John 3:16-17 "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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

John 21:15-17 "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, **do you love me more than these?**" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "**Simon son of John, do you love me?**" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, **do you love me?**" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13 "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. 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. 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 is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails...** And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. **But the greatest of these is love.**"