

Love is all around, love is all you need, love is in the air...love is everywhere around us, but what is it to truly love like God loves, to love like Jesus?

⁷ *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.* ¹¹ *Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *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 4:7-12 (NIV)

This incredible passage from John's first letter leaves me overwhelmed. No one has ever seen God face to face, but if we, the church, love each other the way Jesus taught us to, God lives in us. That tells me that people will meet God *in us* if the church is serious about loving each other.

I'm pumped that you're going to be a part of this series, Love Like Jesus. In it, we'll learn from Jesus Himself how to live and love like Him. Listen to His words: "*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*"

We'll be hitting this up on two main fronts – Boost and Small Groups/D-Teams. Each week at Boost we'll look at how Jesus interacted with His close friends when He was here on earth (there's space in the back of this booklet to make sermon notes). From these interactions, we'll draw out the main attitudes or characteristics of love, Jesus-style. We'll follow that up in our Small Groups and D-Teams by studying specific parables that Jesus used to teach us how to love like Him.

My prayer for you is that God would revolutionise your view of love. May God show us, show you, what it means to love like Jesus. And I pray that God might revolutionise our church family that people might look at us and see and meet God in us as we love like Jesus.

Pastor Sam

bOost

Birkdale Baptist Church

LOVE
like
JESUS
"By this they will know"

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32

¹¹“There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

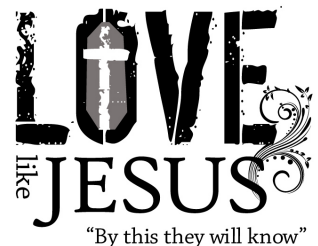
²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹ “ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”



Last Sunday night, Sam shared Jesus' command that we are to love each other like He loves us. What impacted you most out of that message? How does the parable of the rebel son help to deepen your understanding of what it means to love like Jesus?

Who do you identify with most in this parable and why?

- a. The rebel son
- b. The father
- c. The 'good' brother
- d. The friends at the party
- e. Other _____

In what ways was the father's response to the rebel son's return different to that of the 'good' brother's response? What do you think was going with each of them to make them respond like they did? Which response best resembles you? Which response best resembles Jesus?

When you think of your friends, family members or people in general who are living like the rebel son did, how do you feel? Are there specific behaviours or attitudes that you find especially hard to respond to as the father did to his rebel son?

This parable reveals much about the way God loves us. What are some words you might use to describe this love? How well are you loving like Jesus? How well is our church loving like Jesus? Spend some time thanking God for His love for you and ask Him to show you where you need to change to love like Jesus.