

LAUNCH #3
GET READY FOR
YOUR FAITH TO TAKE OFF!
CONNECTED WE LOVE

John 15:9-13, 17

- DISCIPLES ARE
COMMANDED TO LOVE
ONE ANOTHER.

A. John 13:34-35

- John 15:12, John 15:17
- I am **human**. Not **natural**.
- "And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. (Matt. 24:12 NAS)

1. LOVE OF GOD IS THE
FIRST FRUIT/PROOF OF
BEING A DISCIPLE.

A. God is love.

- And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. **God is love**, and the one who abides in love abides in God, **and God abides in him.** (1 Jn. 4:16 NAS)

B. God's love in us bears witness by our loving others.

2. THE ABSENCE OF LOVE IN A DISCIPLE SHOULD BE A WARNING.

- Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 Jn. 4:7-8)

2. THE ABSENCE OF LOVE IN A DISCIPLE SHOULD BE A WARNING.

- If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. --1 Jn. 4:20-21 (NASB)

3. WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION OF LOVING OTHERS??

A. The **love of Christ** (savior) has not
been made personal to me. John
3:16.

- "We love, because He first loved us." (1
Jn. 4:19 NAS)

4. WHY DO I NOT "FEEL" LIKE LOVING OTHERS?:

1. Not born again (so God is not in me). 1 Jn 4:8, 20-21; 5:10
2. Stopped abiding; dried up. Jn 15:6
3. Obedience is a convenience; not surrendered. Jn 15:10, 1 Jn 5:7; Matt 11:28-30

5. LOVE IS A "VERB." CHRIST GAVE IT MEANING FOR US.

A. Not a feeling.

- 1 John 3:16, 18, "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we out to lay down our lives for our brethren. ... Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue but in deed and truth."
- John 15:13
- Acts 2:42-45

5. WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK
LIFE?

- A. Not superficial. Jn 15:14
- B. Rom 12:9-21

5. WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE?

- **Rom. 12:9-21** Let love be without hypocrisy.¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; **give preference to one another in honor;**¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, **devoted to prayer,**¹³ **contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.**¹⁴ **Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not. ...**

5. WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE? (CONT)

- ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. ¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. . . . ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. ¹⁹ . . . " ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. --**Rom. 12:9-21 (NASB)**

5. NEXT STEPS.

1. For the next 40 days will you intentionally focus on abiding in Christ?
 - A. If you are not spending time with Christ daily, read the gospel of John, daily (for the next 40 days).
 - B. If you are, focus your prayers on all of us to encounter Christ in our lives.
 - C. Use the "Grow Guide" to assist you.

5. NEXT STEPS

2. Get in a small group.
3. Invite a fellow believer for coffee, lunch. Grow the relationship beyond the "superficial."