

All You Need Is Love  
Matthew 22:34:46

Review:

1. Love is not only a feeling of affection, and it isn't just following rules or observing rituals
2. True love must come from the core of our being, including all our emotions, thoughts and intentions in a firm commitment
3. True love for both God and other people is something we must put into practice in concrete ways

Reflect:

1. How would you characterize your love for God? Thinking about this passage, what inspires you to love Him more? How do you plan to put that love into practice more consistently?
2. Think about your relationships with other people. Which one is the most difficult for you? How can you more consistently express your love for that person?

Go further: Read John 15:1-20

1. In verse 1, how does Jesus describe Himself and the Father?
2. In verse 5, how does Jesus describe Himself and those who believe in Him?
3. In verse 2, what does Jesus say the Father does to the branches and why?
4. In verses 4 and 5, how does Jesus say the branches can produce fruit? What happens to the fruitfulness of a branch that isn't connected to the vine?
5. In verse 6, what does Jesus say happens to branches that have become disconnected from the vine?
6. What promise does Jesus make about prayer in verse 7? Why is our connection to Him critical in order for this promise to be fulfilled?
7. In verses 8-11, what sorts of fruit does Jesus say our lives should produce?
8. What commandment does Jesus give us in verses 12 and 17?
9. How does Jesus describe love in verses 12-13?
10. What does Jesus call us in verses 14 and 15, and why does He call us this?
11. In verse 16, why does Jesus say He has called us?

Summary and Application:

1. How do you think Jesus is calling you to bear the fruit of love, joy, and obedience in your relationship with God?
2. Jesus said that the Father prunes the branches that are in Christ so that we might bear more fruit. How have the difficulties in your life increased your love for God? How has suffering deepened your relationships with other people?
3. Jesus said that the greatest form of love involves self-sacrifice. How have you experienced this sort of love from other people? How are you called to express this sort of love to others today?