

LEARNING TO LOVE

Based on the book by Willard Tate

Part 1: Developing the Capacity to Love - Lesson 3

Intro: What happens when you go a long time without eating? What do we learn about our food intake?

Experiencing God's Love

The need to love and be loved is the simplest of all human wants. Man needs love like he needs the sun and the rain. He perishes without it. His basic longing is to be the object of love and to be able to give love. No other need is quite so significant to his nature. Author unknown

1. Have you ever known someone that wanted love so bad, they made a mistake to get it?

What do you think it is like to feel "unloved"?

God made us with that need for love, and what we really need is to be loved UN_____. Tate

How does this kind of love help children as they grow?

How can the way we love make our children "insecure"?

2. Just as a child needs unconditional love to grow, we need a L_____ R_____ with God. Why?

When we have that kind of relationship with our Creator:

We K_____ who we are!

We know where we C_____ from!

We know where we are G_____!

How can this help us in establishing/maintaining long-term relationships?

If we know God loves us unconditionally:

There is great S_____ TY in that love.

There is a great feeling of self-W_____ in that love.

There is comfort knowing that the great God of the universe A_____ us as we are!

It makes it easier to R_____ O_____ to others and let God love them through us.

Why We Have Trouble Believing in God's Love

1. God is too big and powerful to love me. What do the following passages say about this?

Matt. 10:29-32

Lamentations 3:22-23

2. My Sin is too great. What do the following passages say about that?

Romans 5:8

Psa. 103:12

3. I don't deserve God's love. What do the following passages say about that?

1 John 4:10

Eph. 3:17-19

4. We feel that God's love is conditional. We are not alone. Read the following passages. Identify the speaker, what excuse did they give, and what did they go on to accomplish w/God's help?

Ex. 3:11 -

Judges 6:15-16

1 Chron. 29:14

Job 42:5-6

1 Cor. 15:9

When you look at these examples in scripture, what lessons come to mind for us today?

How God Wants To Relate To Us!

1. God is a spiritual being and many have problems relating to Him. What pictures do the following scriptures give us about God and what kind of relationship He wants to have with us?

Isa. 54:5-6

Jer.3:14

2 Cor. 11:2

Eph. 5:32

John 1:12

Galatians 4:6-7

Luke 15:11-32

* Never forget our need for a P_____ R_____ with the Father! *Going to church faithfully and being respected by all doesn't guarantee by any means that you have a close relationship with the Father such as He wants to have with you. Tate*

Knowing God Loves Us

1. Seven ideas that have helped Willard Tate believe beyond any doubt that God loved him unconditionally:

a. James 1:17. Count your blessings D_____ and do not focus on the N_____.

b. One of the best ways to feel God's love is to give love to O_____.

c. When we show Godly love to others and they love us back in return, we then become an object of G_____ 'S L_____. That makes a tremendous difference in our lives. Can you imagine what would it be like to go through life without ever experiencing God's love from someone in your life?

d. Psalm 86:15, Romans 5:8, 8:37-38, 1 John 3:1. In scripture, we have a record of how God has L_____ ED, C_____ ED for, and P_____ ED His people in the past. We have heard the many testimonies of those who walked before us about God's steadfast love. We have Church histories and read many authors that have written about the surety of God's love. Learning how God has loved His people helps us believe the assurances of His love for us as well.

e. Luke 23:26-56. There could be no greater, more convincing demonstrations of God's love than Jesus Christ _____!

f. We simply have to W_____ to believe that God loves us. It is a D_____, a C_____ we make with our will when to accept God's word. We must reach a point where our D_____ for His love is stronger than our D_____.

g. Our acceptance of God's love is a process of G_____ TH and we need to be patient with ourselves and others. It is a C_____ ION that blossoms over time as we grow in grace, knowledge, and experience with God seeing His faithfulness and goodness over and over.

2. Read 1 John 3-4. What verses stand out to you?