



# **REAL LOVE**

**PART 1: LOVE GIVES | JOHN 3:16**  
**DISCUSSION GUIDE &  
5 DAY DEVOTIONAL**



## **DISCUSSION GUIDE:**

### **REAL LOVE PT.1 LOVE GIVES | Pastor Eric Youman | Sunday 2.2.25**

#### **Summary**

The sermon emphasizes the importance of moving forward in life by embracing God's purpose and love. It highlights the need to leave behind things that are not pleasing to God and to love forward, which involves understanding and practicing real love as defined by God. The sermon explores different types of love—Eros, Philia, and Agape—and stresses that Agape love, which is selfless and unconditional, is the highest form of love that God desires from us. It challenges believers to align with God's love by practicing forgiveness, kindness, and compassion, and by giving their lives to God as He gave His Son for us.

#### **Intro Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we come before You with open hearts, ready to receive what You have for us today. Help us to understand and embrace the true meaning of love as You have shown us through Your Son. May we be open to moving forward in Your purpose and love, and may our discussions today bring us closer to You and to each other. Amen.

#### **Ice Breaker**

What is one thing you love to do that always brings you joy?

#### **Key Verses**

John 3:16 Romans 10:17 James 1:22 1 John 4:8 1 Corinthians 13:13 John 14:15

#### **Questions**

- What does 'moving forward' mean to you in your personal life?
- How do you differentiate between the different types of love mentioned in the sermon?
- Why is Agape love considered the highest form of love?
- How can we practice Agape love in our daily interactions?
- What challenges do you face when trying to love forward?
- How does understanding God's love impact your relationship with others?
- In what ways can you give more of yourself to God this week?
- How can we ensure that our love for God is reflected in our actions?

## **Life Application**

This week, identify one area in your life where you can practice Agape love. Whether it's forgiving someone, showing kindness, or giving without expecting anything in return, take a step towards loving forward.

## **Key Takeaways**

- Moving forward requires leaving behind what is not pleasing to God.
- Real love is selfless, unconditional, and sacrificial.
- Agape love is the highest form of love and is what God desires from us.
- Love is an action word that requires us to give and serve others.
- God's love for us is demonstrated through the sacrifice of His Son.

## **Ending Prayer**

Lord, thank You for teaching us about real love. As we go forth this week, help us to practice Agape love in all our interactions. May we be a reflection of Your love to the world, and may our lives be a testament to Your grace and mercy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



# REAL LOVE PT.1 LOVE GIVES: 5 Day Devotional

## Day 1: Understanding True Love

### Devotional

In our world today, we often use the word 'love' casually - to describe everything from our favorite food to our deepest relationships. But true love, especially God's love, is far more profound and meaningful. When we begin to grasp the depth of God's love for us, it transforms how we view and express love in our own lives. God demonstrated the ultimate example of love by giving His only Son for our salvation. This wasn't a casual or conditional love - it was a deliberate, sacrificial act that shows us what real love looks like.

### Bible Verse

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.' - John 3:16

### Reflection Question

How does your understanding of love compare to God's demonstration of love through Jesus? Where might you need to adjust your perspective?

**Quote** We use this word love so loosely. We use this word love when we want to describe how we feel about big and small, simple and complex things.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me understand the depth and power of Your love. Open my eyes to see love as You see it, not as the world defines it. Guide me in growing in my understanding of true love. Amen.



## Day 2: Love Must Be Learned

### Devotional

Many of us assume that loving others should come naturally, but the truth is that genuine love needs to be learned and practiced intentionally. Just as a child learns to walk through repeated attempts and occasional falls, we must learn to love through conscious effort and sometimes through our mistakes. This journey of learning to love involves studying God's Word, observing Christ's example, and actively applying these lessons in our relationships with others.

### Bible Verse

'So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.' - Romans 10:17

### Reflection Question

What specific steps can you take today to better learn and practice God's kind of love in your relationships?

**Quote** Love has to be taught. And then after love is taught, then love has to be practiced. It just don't show up.

### Prayer

Lord, teach me how to love as You love. Give me patience in the learning process and wisdom to apply Your teachings in my daily interactions. Help me grow in showing Your love to others. Amen.



## Day 3: Love in Action

### Devotional

True love isn't just a feeling - it's an action. When we truly love someone, it shows in what we do, not just in what we say. God's love for us wasn't just words; it was demonstrated through the ultimate sacrifice of His Son. Similarly, our love for others should be visible through our actions: showing kindness, offering encouragement, extending forgiveness, and making sacrifices for others' benefit. These actions aren't always easy, but they're essential expressions of genuine love.

### Bible Verse

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.' - John 14:15

### Reflection Question

What tangible ways can you demonstrate love to someone in your life today?

**Quote** Real love gives. Love is an action word. It's a verb. With love, you have to do something.

### Prayer

Dear God, help me move beyond just feeling love to actively showing it. Give me opportunities to demonstrate Your love through my actions, and the courage to follow through. Amen.



## Day 4: Selfless Love

### Devotional

One of the most challenging aspects of love is its call to selflessness. True love, as God demonstrates it, puts others first without expecting anything in return. This kind of love goes against our natural inclinations toward self-preservation and self-interest. It requires us to die to ourselves daily, especially in our closest relationships. While this may sound daunting, it's through this self-sacrificial love that we experience the deepest joy and most meaningful connections.

### Bible Verse

'Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.' - 1 John 4:8

### Reflection Question

In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to put others before yourself, and how can you grow in this aspect of love?

**Quote** Agape love is a choice to put others before yourself. You're putting people before you.

### Prayer

Father, help me develop a selfless heart that reflects Your love. Give me strength to put others first and trust You with the results. Transform my natural self-centeredness into Christ-like sacrifice. Amen.



## Day 5: The Greatest of These is Love

### Devotional

As we conclude our journey of understanding love, we recognize that among all virtues - even faith and hope - love stands supreme. This isn't because love is easier or more comfortable, but because it most closely reflects God's character and His ultimate purpose for our lives. When we choose to love as God loves, we participate in something eternal and transformative. Our capacity to love grows as we stay connected to the source of all love - God Himself.

### Bible Verse

'So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.' -  
1 Corinthians 13:13

### Reflection Question

How has your understanding of love grown through these devotionals, and what lasting changes do you want to make in how you express love?

**Quote** So now faith, hope, and love abide. But the greatest of these is love.

### Prayer

Loving God, thank You for showing me what true love looks like. Help me to keep growing in love, to keep choosing love, and to keep reflecting Your love to others. May love become the defining characteristic of my life. Amen.