



SUPERNATURAL

Week 6 | Evangelism and the Holy Spirit

| KEY THOUGHTS

- We see one thing immediately from the definition of love that Jesus gave His disciples: **Genuine love will cost you something.**
- The “fruit” Jesus spoke of earlier in the chapter has two aspects: **a supernatural life change** in ourselves + **seeing new people come to Christ** through my own new life in Him.
- **The clearest way to love others is to share the gospel with them.** Jesus is merely inviting us to love as He loves and to do what He did.
- If I feel I don’t have what it takes to love people the way Jesus is asking me to, then I’m right; **I don’t! But there is One who did!** And the same Spirit Who empowered Him to do it is also within me.
- Intense emotion can be a part of the love Jesus is talking about, but it’s not limited to that. **Jesus’s love is an unselfish commitment to another that’s displayed through action.**
- **Jesus’s love is generous;** it seeks to give, not to receive; it causes us to move, to act, to give up our comfort, to lay aside our pride, to lay down our lives.
- Throughout His entire life, **Jesus was always in step with God**—that’s the definition of righteousness. **That pathway led Jesus to the cross to die for our rebellion against God; it cost Him everything.**
- The source of that selfless love was **the love the Son already experienced with the Father.** That kind of love leads to joy and serving others; it empowers great acts of unselfishness.
- **The Holy Spirit empowers us to love the way Jesus loves, the way the Father loves.**

| SCRIPTURE

¹² This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. **John 15:12-13 (ESV)**

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **John 15:9-11 (ESV)**

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another. **John 15:14-17 (ESV)**

| PRACTICAL

- Realize that every moment of suffering I face in this life is less than the worst that Jesus has already faced and conquered.
- I didn't choose Jesus, but He chose me to abide in Him. I can do that by meditating on the gospel and rejoicing in it, and filling my mind with God's character.
- Jesus's command to love as He loves means that loving is not a feeling I need to summon from within myself, but a decision I make to serve others and point them to the gospel.
- Loving others like Jesus loves can be accomplished by:
 - Experiencing Jesus's love for myself;
 - Immersing myself in the gospel until it thrills my soul;
 - Making the decision to help others hear the gospel too.

| REFLECT

- Consider that Jesus has already faced the worst—the righteous wrath of the Holy God! He did it on my behalf, so that I can enjoy the best. How could I respond, but to love Him back?
- Reflect on what it means to be captured by Jesus’s love. Does that enable me to face any less-than-the worst situation knowing that the very best is waiting for me beyond it?
- If I am in Christ, the same Spirit that gave Jesus the power to love so selflessly is within me, able to empower me to do the same.
- If I feel like I’m on the outside, looking in at the powerful love relationship between the Father, the Son, and His disciples, what’s preventing me from stepping through the door Jesus has opened for me into that relationship?

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