



Relate(able)

8 PRINCIPLES FOR MAKING RELATIONSHIPS WORK

Getting Started

Answer one of the following questions on love

Who are the people in your life that are the most natural for you to love?

Who are the people who are the most difficult for you to love?

Who in your life most closely represents unconditional love to you?

Going Deeper

Read [Galatians 5:22-25](#). These verses map out 9 characteristics that could change your relationships. Take a moment to work through each of them using the following questions

Put a K by the characteristics you would most like to be known for.

Put a S by the areas that you struggle most with.

Put a C by the one or two that you are working on most in your life right now.

Love

Joy

Peace

Forbearance/Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self control

On Sunday Jack talked about two ways to fully love. Take a moment to discuss each of them

1. You can't love until you realize you are loved

How have you seen the truth of this statement in your life?

Over and over in scripture God details the extent of his love. Read the following verses and list the ways God shows his love to us

[Romans 5:8](#)

[Romans 8:38-39](#)

[1 John 3:1](#)

Read and discuss the following quote

"We are all receiving Charity. There is something in each of us that cannot be naturally loved. Only the lovable can be naturally loved. You might as well ask people to like the taste of rotten bread or the sound of a mechanical drill. We can be forgiven, and pitied, and loved in spite of it, with Charity; no other way. All who have good parents, wives, husbands, or children may be sure that at some times they are receiving Charity, are not loved because they are lovable but because Love Himself is in those who love them." -CS Lewis.

What are some ways that we have to give charity to those around us?

What are some ways that God shows us love when we don't deserve it?

2) When you realize you're loved then you can love like crazy

Read [Luke 6:27-36](#) and take a moment to discover some extreme ways God wants us to love.

3) Let God teach you how to love

Read [Galatians 5:22-25](#) again. Let's look one more time at our verse.

Notice that it says **"The fruit of the spirit is love."** It doesn't say "If you are really good you'll experience love." It doesn't say "If you always do the right thing you'll be loved." It doesn't say "If you walk enough old ladies across the street and give money to the homeless people or teach Sunday school you'll be loved." It says the fruit of the spirit is love. If you want love to be the fruit of your life it starts right here. Invite God's spirit to live in you. How can you get closer in that relationship so that God's spirit is teaching you to love?

