

# IT'S COMPLICATED

## 4. Love Me Don't

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read John 13.31-35

**34** 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

- Why does Love need to be a command? Shouldn't it just come naturally? And can you even command someone to love someone else – isn't that a contradiction? What is it about the nature of this kind of love ('as Jesus has loved us') that means it *can* be commanded?
- Eros & Agapé. Why do you think 'eros' doesn't appear in the Bible, when it's such a natural part of human experience? What strikes you most about the nature of agapé love? (Other-oriented, self-sacrificial, choice-based.)
- What do you think is your prime love language? If you've got time, go to [www.5lovelanguages.com](http://www.5lovelanguages.com), and quickly take the test. Discuss how this works out in practice with you. Do you naturally tend to show love to others in the same way you like to receive it? Why is this not always the best choice?
- Read Matthew 19.11-12. '*For the sake of the kingdom.*' How do we feel about placing Kingdom Priorities above Personal Desires? Is this too much to ask?
- Submitting ourselves to Jesus, and letting his Love be the last word on our sexual ethics, will help us make good, life-giving decisions. Discuss.

Big Idea: 'The greatest Love is Jesus Love. Making him our King, and allowing his love to guide our decisions about relationships, is the best way to live.'

Pray once more in smaller groups. Pray for areas of past hurt and disappointment – particularly where you've experienced conditional love from others. Pray for the Love of Christ to fill our hearts, just as his Ancient Principles inform our minds. Pray that we as a group would love each other as Jesus has loved us. Pray that our romantic relationships would be totally guided and defined by this great love.