

Illogical Love: Part 1- The Secret  
Genesis 2:18, John 15:9-13, 1 John 4:19

**I. ME**

- A. My family. (Family pic)
- B. When I tell you about ME I'm always going to tell you about my family. Why? B/c we tend to define ourselves by our relationships.

**II. WE**

- A. But relationships are weird
  - 1. When they are healthy and going well... we feel alive and like we are thriving
  - 2. When they are unhealthy or even non-existent we feel almost dead, numb, cold, drained
  - 3. Sometimes kids give you both in the span of two minutes.
  - 4. Would could live in an incredible house, have more money than we could ever dream of, have the perfect job, but if our closest relationships are broken... life is miserable.
  - 5. Why is that?
- B. **The quality of our life is determined by the quality of our relationships.**
- C. There's something about being human, that makes us need relationships
  - 1. Think of your happiest times... they involved happy relationships right?
  - 2. Even for introverts.
  - 3. What's that about?
- D. **We were designed,** from the beginning, **for relationships.**
  - 1. Adam and Eve- **Gen 2:18**
  - 2. We can't be fully alive apart from a loving connection to others.
  - 3. Proof- Ever been lonely... like real true loneliness?
    - a. There is something wrong there, right? Something needs to be fixed. You need some real connection... a real relationship.
  - 4. Loneliness is proof that we were designed to thrive in relationships.
  - 5. Relationships should be the most life giving, refreshing, nurturing things in our world. (Even for introverts)
- E. But often relationships are our biggest source of hurt, pain, sadness.
  - 1. When we think about the things we regret most in life, or our biggest heartache they often have to do with some kind of broken relationship.
  - 2. They are hard.
  - 3. Instead of making us feel alive... they suck the life out of us.

4. Sometimes relationships just suck.
- F. But they don't have to.
    1. If God designed us to thrive only when we are in relationships... then it must actually be possible to have healthy, life-giving relationships with other people.
  - G. Jesus actually told his disciples the secret to happy/healthy relationships right before he was arrested and executed and resurrected.
    1. And then a few years later Beatles picked up on it... all you need is love.
    2. But what we'll see is this love is different than what we usually think, it can go against our natural instincts... it's often illogical love.
  - H. Not yet Christians... Principles can help your relationships too.
    1. Following Jesus makes your life better and makes you better at life.

### III. GOD

- A. John (**John 15:9-13** SLIDE)
  1. Jesus' Best Friend writing before he dies.
  2. Section is Jesus' last teaching before everything goes down.
  3. Making sure the disciples get the most important thing.
  4. Jumping in in the middle of the conversation.
- B. John 15:9-13 with commentary.
- C. **V. 9** "As the Father has loved me"
  1. Trinity God exists eternally in perfect relationship.
  2. Trinity- One God who exists eternally in three persons. Father, Son, Holy Spirit. All equally and fully God.
  3. Have existed for eternity in perfect relationship... God is love.
  4. We see here the Father is the source of love—that then flows through Jesus—to us.
  5. The perfect love of God is offered to us too... "So have I loved you."
  - 6. 1 John 4:19**
  7. "Now remain in my love." This love sounds great. I'd love to remain in it... how? (Hope it's not about rules... probably is since its religion).
- D. **V. 10**- I knew it!
  1. If you want to keep Jesus' love you have to keep the rules, right?
  2. Chill out. Let the guy finish
- E. **V. 11**
  1. Joy!
  2. When has being forced to follow rules ever brought you joy?

3. But Relationships have brought you joy haven't they?
4. Never happier than when all your relationships are healthy.
5. Jesus is promising you complete joy! Not fleeting happiness...
6. This next part is what so many people miss about Xianity (Xian and Not-Xian)

F. **V. 12**- My command is this... love

1. Jesus' command is that we love each other.
2. Don't go too quickly by this...
3. **First...** He could have listed hundreds of commands
  - a. The religious leaders of his time had over 600 rules they followed to try to be Holy (make God like them).
  - b. His command was simply... LOVE
  - c. Dirty hippie.
4. **Second...** He's commanding love. It's a command
  - a. You have two choices with commands... Obey or Not.
  - b. That means we have a choice to love or not.
  - c. The love Jesus is talking about is not a feeling... b/c you can't command feelings, you can't choose to have certain feelings... "Stop feeling that way!"
  - d. Jesus' love isn't this ooey gooey, butterfly, clouds parting, unattainable, mystical feeling.
  - e. True love is a choice.**
5. **Third...** The command is to love... as he has loved.
  - a. What does that look like? How did Jesus love?

G. **V. 13**

1. First He died for us.
  - a. Literally laid down his life.
2. But he also lived for us.
  - a. Became a human to live with us daily and serve daily.
3. **Loving like Jesus means living for and, if necessary, dying for others.**
  - a. Easy to say, "Oh I'd die for you."
  - b. Harder to actually "live for" someone in the day-to-day mundane routine of life.
4. That means choosing to put others' needs, wants, even preferences before your own... daily.
  - a. Examples...

**5. See the opposite of love is not hate... it's selfishness.**

- a. When your goal in life is your own needs, wants, preferences then other people simply become tools or hindrances to you satisfying those desires.
  - b. Using people is the opposite of loving them.
  - c. One reason why God warns against sleeping around... talk about that a bit next week.
- H. So Jesus is saying... If you want to have my joy, have it completely... choose to love each other in the mundane and in the extraordinary.
- 1. According to Jesus, **healthy relationships are defined by choosing to love.**
- I. How?
- 1. Through his love... “remain in my love.”
  - 2. It is choosing to let Jesus love the other person through you.
  - 3. You can’t muster it up... you try to do it on your own it’ll get exhausting.
  - 4. But if every interaction is seen as an opportunity for Jesus to love others through you... its life-giving, fulfilling, joy-full.

#### **IV. YOU**

- A. The secret to healthy relationships really isn’t a secret at all
- B. The secret is LOVE
  - 1. Not forced feeling
  - 2. Not accidental feelings that can come from having the right amount of caffeine or alcohol in your system or bc they smell like spring time in a meadow.
  - 3. But making the choice every day to love by putting others’ needs, wants, and preferences above your own.
  - 4. Sounds illogical but it’s true.
  - 5. Once you stop worrying about your happiness, and choose to love by putting others before you, you will find the joy you were designed for... healthy relationships.
- C. Challenge.
  - 1. Every morning this week, ask God to help you choose to love with his love and for opportunities to show it.
  - 2. One week. Then come back and tell me if you’re happier or worse off.

#### **V. WE**

- A. What if’s
  - 1. Marriage was defined by choosing to love?
  - 2. Family was defined by choosing to love?
    - a. What effect would that have on your kids?

3. Friendships?
4. Work?
5. Neighborhood?

B. Next messages

1. What this choice of love actually looks like in specific relationships
2. Marriage, family, friends, work, resolving conflict.
3. Choosing to love through God's love is the secret to thriving in all of these.

C. Choose to love and people will look at your relationships, and despite circumstance, will wonder why you get joy from such illogical love.