



"The People In Our Lives"

Cypress Bible Notes

August 19, 2007

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Series: The People in our Lives, Message #4, David and Jonathan

“The People Who Love Us”

Listen! “If you love me you will _____.”

Question: Exactly what do we do if we love someone? Forget X? Buy X? Stop X?

The Idea: In God-like love:

#1 Admiration leads to bonded soul mates. v 1

- Knit:

#2 Bonding leads to the highest standard of love. v 1

- Matthew 22:29:
- Agape=I love you because I decided to and there is nothing you can do about it.

#3 The highest standard of love leads to permanent commitment. v 3

- The Four Stages of a Love Relationship by Steve Meeks:
 1. Initiation:
 2. Disillusionment:
 3. Reconciliation:
 4. Incarnation:

#4 Permanent commitment leads to sacrifice in order to elevate a friend. v 4

- Philippians 2:3, 4:

So What?

#1 Thank God for the people who love you.

#2 Thank the people who love you for loving you.

#3 Our words, both the tone and the content, either draw or repulse others. (v 1)

#4 Think through the four stages of a love relationship in relationship to _____.

#5 Ask the Holy Spirit what He would have you do by way of making a sacrifice to elevate, honor, or help someone this week.

Walking Papers

Practical Helps for Walking With God

The Idea: In God-like love:

- #1** **Admiration leads to bonded soul mates.**
- #2** **Bonding leads to the highest standard of love.**
- #3** **The highest standard of love leads to permanent commitment.**
- #4** **Permanent commitment leads to sacrifice in order to elevate a friend.**

Please take time this week to work on the life change applications from today's passage:

- **Today:** Exactly what do you think it means to "love someone as yourself?" Mt 22:39. Please take some time to write down this answer in your journal.
- **Monday:** Read through the "Four Stages of a Love Relationship" by Steve Meeks and apply them to your three closest relationships. Do you see any changes you need to make based on these ideas? Will you make them?
- **Tuesday:** Have you made a heart-level, permanent, act-of-the-will commitment to each person in your family?
- **Wednesday:** Is there something that God the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do in order to "elevate, honor, or help someone through personal sacrifice?"
- **Thursday:** Give some serious thought, prayer, and reflection to how the tone and content of your words are drawing others or repulsing others in your life.
- **Friday:** Are you being untruthful toward others and attempting to manipulate them with some "If you love me you will..." statements? Is someone attempting to manipulate you with some "If you love me you will..." statements? Do you see the stark insecurity in an "If you love me you will..." statement?
- **Saturday:** God loves you. The cross is the perfect and final proof of His love. God aches to be your first Source of love—not just the final option when others are not being loving toward you. What do you think about this? How could you renew your mind about these ideas?

"I love you because I decided to and there is nothing you can do about it." God