



Leading People into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Antioch CELEBRATION Message: "Love Like This..."

Guest Speaker: David Upchurch

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Start the Conversation

What are your favorite character traits that you appreciate in other people?

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Here is God's list of favorite character traits in people!

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! **Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)**

Today, we focus on the one that describes God: Love!

"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love - not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us." **1 John 4:7-12 (NLT)**

What is real love—us loving God, or God showing love to us? What are the major differences?

God does not just choose to love sometimes—God IS love. What has distracted you from realizing God's true character? What question(s) do you have about what God is really like?

God does not just teach about love—God demonstrates love. God gave up His loved child for a time, experiencing perhaps the most painful separation known to humans, to pay for our forgiveness. Out of his character, God demonstrated love for you. What is your response to God?

Based on God's love for you, what should your response be to other people?

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“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” **1 John 4:18 (NIV)**

Before you are forgiven of your sins, fear is an appropriate response to God. Once God has forgiven your sins, fear is to be replaced by thankfulness and confidence in your Savior. Which is your response to God more like—fear or thankful confidence?

How have other Christians helped you embrace God’s love for you?

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How does the following Scripture describe the way God loves us?

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.” **1 John 4:16-17 (NIV)**

What is the difference between “knowing” and “relying” on God’s love?

How can you become reliable in your love for God and other people?

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God’s love is both example and motivation for “leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.”

“We love because he first loved us.” **1 John 4:19 (NIV)**

Describe how Jesus led by example.

When is love difficult?

Pray!

What has God shown you about himself as a result of your discussion? Are you excited? Humbled? Grateful? Surprised? Be honest with God in prayer!