

UN POPULAR OPINION

a series about relationships

Leader Conversation Guide – Real Love Is Unconditional

Main Idea

In this message, Pastor Chris kicked off our new series, “Unpopular Opinion,” by addressing the real definition of love. Where much of the world advocates that we should love someone only as long as the relationship is positive and beneficial, God offers us a better way—His way—which is the way of unconditional love. As Christians, we don’t just love the people we feel like loving or those we think we “should” love; we love our enemies, too. Of course, this doesn’t come naturally to us, which is why we need to embrace Christianity as a transformational process where, little by little, we become more and more like Jesus. We aren’t going to get it right every day, but we should, as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:1 (LB), “make love [our] greatest aim. As we go on this journey of following Jesus, let’s resist the critical spirit of the world, ascribe value to others, and love people unconditionally!

Make It Practical

We can only love others unconditionally out of the overflow of our relationship with God. If we have a hard time loving others, our problem might not be with people; we might actually have a problem with God. We have to know God in order to really know what love is. All of it starts with being born again.

Dedicate your life to Jesus. Receive the unconditional love He has for you. It is only then that you’ll be able to show real love to others.

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 John 4:7-8 NIV

Talk About It

1. If you had to define the word “love” before watching this message, what would you have said? How has this message challenged that definition?
2. Why does the way we love others matters so much to God? What changes do you think you might need to make in the way you show love to others?
3. The way you see God and His love for you will determine your ability to love others. Describe how you think God feels about you. Does this line up with what God’s Word says is true?

LOVE IS GIVING A PERSON WHAT THEY NEED, NOT WHAT THEY DESERVE.

Prayer

Father, thank You for loving us unconditionally. Help us be deeply rooted and established in Your love, and give us power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep Your love is. Let us truly know this love so that we can be filled to the measure with all the fullness of God. And let our lives become an overflow of that love and fullness, so that we can truly love those around us, regardless of the circumstances. Help us live like Jesus. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

(Prayer based on Ephesians 3:16-19 NIV.)

Leader Tips

Talk about the concept of being “born again” with your group, and make sure everyone understands that they have been given a new life and a new nature in Christ. As Christians, they are now “born of God.” Discuss how baptism is a powerful picture of this spiritual reality, and encourage everyone in your group to be water baptized.