



# OUR FAMILY VALUES

## LOVE

**Theme:** Love 10

**Discipleship groups purpose:** Each member becoming Christ like.

**Key Truth:** Love does not take into account a wrong suffered.

**Key Scripture:** *1 Corinthians 13:5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,*

**Read:** This is a very powerful position we can all live our lives from as we are perfected in love. To have the love of the Father being perfected in us so we never take into account a wrong suffered, is fully possible when we abide in Christ, and yet I can't help but think it is a reality still to be realised by many in the body of Christ.

The bible teaches us that we are to make sure that we do not come short of the grace of God, so that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and in the process many people get defiled.

**Hebrews 12:15** *See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;*

The grace of God here is power. Don't come short of the power of God, so when offence comes and it will come if one follows Christ, one has the capacity and capability to love on and pray for the one who is causing the offence. This is the biblical pattern and model that Christ gave us to imitate as His followers.

**Matthew 5:43-48** *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Mature sons of God are able to live like this and model this because they are becoming perfect as their Heavenly Father is perfect. These sons have a powerful abiding relationship with God and the outcome is the demonstration of Kingdom wisdom.

1 John 2:9-11 is a powerful passage that all followers of Christ must take heed of and allow it to test and challenge the true state of their relationship with Christ.

**1 John 2:9-11** *The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

It's one thing to say you are in Christ and yet our attitudes and our actions can say something entirely different. Remember love does not take into account a wrong suffered. If love doesn't take into account a wrong suffered and one struggles with hate in one's own heart for a fellow believer, then one in fact is in darkness and not Light. Light being in Christ. One is still living from their flesh, darkness and does not have the capacity to walk as Christ walked, even though they may profess to.

Offence causes one to stumble, but one who is in Christ, the Light, finds even when offence comes there is no reason to stumble, because the One who is greater in them is greater than the offence. Once again this is a very, very powerful position to live one's life from. It's living from the finished work of the cross. Jesus is the power and wisdom of God so as

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one abides in Christ one lives from Christ in them, the hope of glory. This is the indestructible life in Christ.

**Questions:**

1. What stands out the most for you about what you have just heard and why?
2. What role does grace play in not getting offended and why?
3. How easy do we find ourselves getting offended and why?
4. Why is it fully possible to live this offence free life in Christ?
5. What action do we need to take in relation to this teaching?