

# LOVE

**Theme:** Love 9

**Discipleship groups purpose:** Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

**Key Truth:** Love is not provoked.

**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:** The Pharisee's were constantly provoking Jesus to act in a way that would be unbecoming of who He in fact was. They were constantly trying to trap Him and trick Him, but love can not be provoked, because it is love.

In the garden of Gethsemane, when Judas and the guards of the Pharisees and Romans turned up to arrest Jesus, one would think that Jesus may have been provoked to protect Himself by force, but He responds in love. Jesus says to Judas, "Friend, do what you have come for".

Peter on the other hand has a completely different response to that of His Messiah. He very quickly drew out the sword he had and cut off the ear of the high priest's slave Malchus. From his perspective he was going to protect Jesus and defend Him by physical force and yet this isn't the response of love.

Even when love is threatened and its life may be demanded of it, it still doesn't act contrary to its nature.

**Matthew 26:52-54** *Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?"*

When we are abiding in Christ we too will be able to walk in the manner that our Messiah walked and demonstrate a love that is not provoked in an unbecoming way.

**Questions:**

1. Why is love not provoked even at the expense of its own life?
2. How do you think Malchus and the other guards would have been impacted by this love that didn't strike back, but healed his ear?
3. Share your own experience of being able to minister this love to someone else, rather than act in an unbecoming way.