

Working It Out
Christian: It's Not What You Think, Part 8
11/19/17

Review

Christianity has a **BRAND** problem (how those who aren't Christians view us)

Part of our problem and part of our branding problem is a **TERMINOLOGY** problem

“Christian” was a term used by **NON-JESUS** followers to describe Jesus followers, was a **DEROGATORY** term, not **DEFINED** in Scripture, and is used only **THREE** times in New Testament

Since the term Christian isn't defined anywhere in the Bible, you can be a Christian and **DO** and/or **BELIEVE** just about anything

Jesus didn't refer to His followers as “Christians” but as **DISCIPLES** – which is defined in Scripture

Jesus said this would be the **DEFINING MARK** of His disciples:

John 13:34-35 (NIV) “[Jesus said] A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

Jesus intended that this kind of love would stand as the **GATEKEEPER** for all the other rules

Matthew 22:36-39 (NIV) “[Jesus was asked] ³⁶Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? ³⁷Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:40 (NIV) “All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

While “Christians” are quick to look for ways around the simplicity of His words, “disciples” of Jesus don't look for **LOOPHOLES**

Loving others as Jesus loved us is the **FILTER** through which every relational issue should go

For a disciple of Jesus the question we must ask of every situation is “What does **LOVE REQUIRE OF ME?**”

Our natural inclination is to look at the commands and forget the **INTENT** of the Commander

Working This Out In Day To Day Real Life

There are two categories of people who have made a significant difference in your life: those who have **HURT** you and those who have **LOVED** you

The way that you've been **TREATED** has more to do with who you are than what you **BELIEVE**

Somewhere along the way there was a shift in Christianity from “**BEHAVE**” to “**BELIEVE**”

Jesus came to make a **DIFFERENCE** – not a **POINT**

When the church first started and when Jesus launched His movement, it was all about how you **LOVE** – over time it became all about what you **BELIEVE**

If we would simply do what Jesus did instead of arguing about what He said, the world would **CHANGE**

When Jesus interacted with an individual, He interacted with their **STORY** in mind

If you would like to see people change or influence their future, you basically have two options: you can **HURT** them deeply or you can **LOVE** them profoundly

Taking “What Does Love Require of Me” to the Next Level

1. Don't do anything that will HURT you

Because your heavenly Father loves you, you can't do anything to you that doesn't hurt HIM

When you hurt you, you hurt the One and the ones that love you the MOST

Love requires that you respond to God's love by taking care of YOU, because He loves you
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV) “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

2. Don't do anything that will hurt SOMEONE ELSE

Matthew 22:39 (NIV) “[Jesus said] “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Everyone you will ever see or interact with is someone that God loves AS MUCH as He loves you

The people who have HURT you the most are people for whom Christ DIED

3. Don't be mastered by ANYTHING

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV) “I have the right to do anything,’ you say—but not everything is beneficial. ‘I have the right to do anything’—but I will not be mastered by anything.”

Whenever you are mastered by something, it will keep you from LOVING someone

Love requires that you get rid of anything in your life that competes with Christ's LORDSHIP in your life because you cannot love as long as you are mastered

What if we decided we will let God take care of OTHERS, and I'm not going to hurt ME

When the church uses anything else other than love, we ultimately lose our leverage to INFLUENCE

No one will feel COERCED, but people will be DRAWN to the edge to watch us love

People will feel GUILTY, but they won't feel CONDEMNED

When people see us genuinely loving others, it is so attractive that it's almost IRRESISTIBLE

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will make loving others the way Jesus loved me the filter through which I make all my decisions
- This week each in every situation I will begin asking the question, “What does love require of me?”
- I will take “What does love require of me?” to the next level by dealing with the 3 statements given

Next week: Join us as we begin our new Christmas series “Why in the World?” Invite a friend!

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Christianity has a _____ problem (how those who aren't Christians view us)

Part of our problem and part of our branding problem is a _____ problem

"Christian" was a term used by _____ followers to describe Jesus followers, was a _____ term, not _____ in Scripture, and is used only _____ times in New Testament

Since the term Christian isn't defined anywhere in the Bible, you can be a Christian and _____ and/or _____ just about anything

Jesus didn't refer to His followers as "Christians" but as _____ – which is defined in Scripture

Jesus said this would be the _____ of His disciples:

John 13:34-35 (NIV) "[Jesus said] A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus intended that this kind of love would stand as the _____ for all the other rules

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While "Christians" are quick to look for ways around the simplicity of His words, "disciples" of Jesus don't look for _____

Loving others as Jesus loved us is the _____ through which every relational issue should go

For a disciple of Jesus the question we must ask of every situation is "What does _____?"

Our natural inclination is to look at the commands and forget the _____ of the Commander

Working This Out In Day To Day Real Life

There are two categories of people who have made a significant difference in your life: those who Have _____ you and those who have _____ you

The way that you've been _____ has more to do with who you are than what you _____

Somewhere along the way there was a shift in Christianity from "_____ " to "_____ "

Jesus came to make a _____ – not a _____

When the church first started and when Jesus launched His movement, it was all about how you _____ – over time it became all about what you _____

If we would simply do what Jesus did instead of arguing about what He said, the world would _____

When Jesus interacted with an individual, He interacted with their _____ in mind

If you would like to see people change or influence their future, you basically have two options: you can _____ them deeply or you can _____ them profoundly

Taking “What Does Love Require of Me” to the Next Level

4. Don’t do anything that will _____ you

Because your heavenly Father loves you, you can’t do anything to you that doesn’t hurt _____

When you hurt you, you hurt the One and the ones that love you the _____

Love requires that you respond to God’s love by taking care of _____, because He loves you
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV) “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

5. Don’t do anything that will hurt _____

Matthew 22:39 (NIV) “[Jesus said] “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Everyone you will ever see or interact with is someone that God loves _____ as He loves you

The people who have _____ you the most are people for whom Christ _____

6. Don’t be mastered by _____

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Whenever you are mastered by something, it will keep you from _____ someone

Love requires that you get rid of anything in your life that competes with Christ’s _____
in your life because you cannot love as long as you are mastered

What if we decided we will let God take care of _____, and I’m not going to hurt _____

When the church uses anything else other than love, we ultimately lose our leverage to _____

No one will feel _____, but people will be _____ to the edge to watch us love

People will feel _____, but they won’t feel _____

When people see us genuinely loving others, it is so attractive that it’s almost _____

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