

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1 (NIV)

How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband?
Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?
I Corinthians 7:16 (NIV)

➤ *If you don't know what to do, ask the Holy Spirit to help you to love.*

➤ *The mercy that you receive is limited by the mercy that you give.*
"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Matthew 5:7 (NASB)

"Do not judge so that you will not be judged. "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

Matthew 7:1-2 (NASB)

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. James 2:12-13 (NASB)

Robinwood Church

The Real Deal

Living Love Out (Part 4)

by Henry Marquiss

Theme Verse: Don't let anyone tell you what you must eat or drink. Don't let them say that you must celebrate the New Moon festival, the Sabbath, or any other festival. **These things are only a shadow of what was to come. But Christ is real!** Colossians 2:16-17 (CEV)

"I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never—I promise—regret it. **Live out this God-created identity** the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind. Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don't condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you'll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity." Luke 6:35-38 (Message)

1. A new commandment based on Jesus instruction and example. Jesus modeled mature love and His example made it "The Real Deal".

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. John 13:34 (NLT)

➤ *A husband's love for his wife is especially singled out and pointed to Christ's example of other-focused, sacrificial love.*
Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:25-27 (NIV)

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:11-13 (NIV)

- *The Ephesians passage calls us to mature Christ-like love for our wives. Modeling Christ's thinking and behavior will cause us to leave childish talking, thinking and reasoning behind.*

2. Four teachings of Jesus that will mature your understanding of love.

- *Mature love's priorities.*

But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:34-40 (NASB)

- *As this passage emphasizes the importance of love, we need to make sure our wives can see that we have prioritized them in our lives. Life has a way of filling up and allowing the less important to get the most focus. Value/priority must be deliberate and communicated loudly and clearly.*
- *But prioritizing our wives above God is a problem too. The problems include looking to our wives to fill our deepest longings—something they cannot do. That is a role for God alone. Another problem with putting our wives in God's place is that we smother them, squeezing out their love.*

- *Mature love's leadership. The picture that Jesus left us was one of leaders using their gifts and strengths to serve the people they lead. Mature love leads for the building up of those being led.*

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:20-28 (ESV)

And now a word to you parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice. Ephesians 6:4 (LB)

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. I Corinthians 13:4-7 (ESV)

- *Mature love recognizes the purpose of one's life is bigger than one's comfort and wants.*

"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV)