

IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Discipleship Lessons From The Life Of The Apostles

Pastor René Dekker



Why do you
care for people?



34 "A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
35 By this everyone will know that you are my
disciples, if you love one another."

John 13



43 "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5 (NLT)



The apostle John



The apostle John

54 When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?" 55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

Luke 9

The apostle John

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." 36 "What is your request?" he asked. 37 They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."

Mark 10

The apostle John

7 Dear friends, let us love one another,
for love comes from God.

1 John 4



what is...



ἀγάπη

agapē / love

A willful and sacrificial love that intentionally desires someone else's highest good.

Why do you **care for people?**



Why do you care for people?

John's "formula"

Loved by God + Loving God
= Loving people



Why do you care for people?

Answer #1

Because God loves you.



19 We love each other because
he loved us first.

1 John 4 (NLT)



Your capacity to love people
originates from God's love for you.



Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**

1 John 4



God is the source of love



God is the source of love

- Love is in God's DNA: He loves you because that is Who He is.



9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is real love - not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

1 John 4 (NLT)



God is the source of love

- Love is in God's DNA: He loves you because that is Who He is.
- Jesus is the clearest expression and proof that God = love.



5 For we know how dearly God loves us, because
he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts
with his love.

Romans 5 (NLT)



God is the source of love

- Love is in God's DNA: He loves you because that is Who He is.
- Jesus is the clearest expression and proof that God = love.
- God pours out and produces love in you.

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love,....

Galatians 5 (NLT)



God is the model for love



¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3



God is the model for love.

- Jesus set an example that we are to imitate.



Why do you care for people?

Answer #2

Because you love God.



When you love God you love
what He loves.



² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.
³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.
And his commands are not burdensome..

1 John 5



³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 10



When you love God you love
what He loves: God and people.



³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 10



If you love God most, you will
love anyone else best.



The way you love God is
reflected in the way you
love people.

"Just as I have loved you, you should love each
other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the
world that you are my disciples."

John 13 (NLT)



20 If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?

1 John 4 (NLT)



¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

1 John 2 (NLT)





¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit..

2 Corinthians 3



Loving God is transformational: you are becoming someone who loves people on God's terms.



Why do you care for people?

Loved by God + Loving God
= Loving people



Why do you care for people?

- Is God's love a reality for you?



Why do you care for people?

- Is God's love a reality for you?
- Do you love God most?



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