

When our lives take on the character of Jesus, we become a breath of fresh air to those around us, enabling them to experience Jesus Christ through us. In the previous series, we studied Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed...” Because of the love of God in us, we have new life and should strive to live in a way that manifests Jesus. As we meditate on Scripture and memorize verses, God’s Word remains in us to influence our reactions and decisions, forming Christ’s character in us.

The verses in Series E focus on characteristics of Jesus. This Christlikeness affects how we relate to people and how we behave in situations, especially the more difficult ones. When people observe us

responding to difficult people and difficult situations in a godly manner, they recognize and know what Jesus is like, and they find hope.

¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁷This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world **we are like Jesus**.

1 John 4:11-14,17

Further Reflection and Meditation

- How would you describe the way Jesus loved?
- Make a list of ways you can love “with actions and in truth.” Practice them this week.
- Read all of 1 John for a spiritual boost!

SERIES E: WEEK 1

Love

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.

John 13:34-35

Love

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18

A Prayer for Lent

Patient Trust

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability— and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don’t try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ (1881–1955)