

called

2 LOVE

like JESUS

(John 17:1–26)

"I have made you known to them and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them" (John 17:26).

"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word" (John 17:20).

I. INTRODUCTION

In Christ's final prayer with His disciples (John 17:1–26), He refers to the wondrous mystery of the love that exists within the Trinity. Scripture tells us that "God is love" (1 John 4:8), and that He is "abounding in love" (Psalm 103:8), but how is this love manifested within the Trinity, particularly between the Father and the Son? The answer to this question holds significant insight into the divine plan for our spiritual formation.

II. NOT JUST FOR THE DISCIPLES

Christ's final prayer in the upper room was not only for those who were present, it was for all those who would later come to believe in Him as Savior, including you and me (John 17:20).

- In the prayer's final verse, Jesus reveals His heart's desire for us: *"I have made you known to them and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them" (v. 26).*
- Thus, Christ prays that you might have in you both the Father's love for the Son (*"that the love you have for me may be in them"*) and Christ Himself (*"that I myself may be in them"*), including His love (as the Son) for the Father.

This teaching outline was developed in support of the resource, *Called2Love: A 40-Day journey in loving like Jesus.*

Check out this resource and many others today at:

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III. INTRA-TRINITARIAN LOVE FOR US

One of the most amazing blessings we have been given is this: We have received both the Father's love and the Son's love, which serve as the standard for all other love relationships.

The very same love that Jesus and the Father experienced within the Trinity is now in us. But how can we truly experience this "intra-trinitarian" love? And what are the implications of our experience of it for our spiritual formation? To answer these questions, let us take a closer look at the unique ways in which the Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father.

"For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does"

(John 5:20).

"Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame" (Hebrews 12:2).

- **The Father loves the Son by revealing.**

Nowhere in Scripture does the Son reveal anything to the Father. Yet frequently, the Father demonstrates His love for the Son by revealing things to Him.

- **The Father demonstrated love for the Son by revealing to Him both the shame of the crucifixion and the joyful results of it.**

Picture the garden scene, as Christ, in anguish, prays fervently, and His sweat falls like drops of blood to the ground (Luke 22:44). He looks into the cup of the sin of all humankind—past, present, and future. He entrusts Himself to His Father, yet asks, "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me*" (v. 42). But the Father does not take the cup. The Son is to drink it all. The One who has never known sin, who was "*tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin*" (Hebrews 4:15)—is to become sin. Yet is it not possible that, at the same time, the Father was revealing the ultimate joy of redemption and resurrection?



W6. Encountering Jesus in the Word for deepened transformation in Christ-likeness

Pause and reflect

Pause to consider that the Holy Spirit, in response to Christ's upper room prayer, has placed within you this same self-disclosing love of the Father. You have within you One who is longing to reveal to you all things!

Encounter Jesus

"...He is intimate with the upright" (Proverbs 3:32 NASB).

Throughout Scripture, we see that it is God's nature to reveal. The "upright" are the those who yield to what He reveals. Read the following Scripture passages below and allow your heart to be stirred with gratefulness for the truth that God longs for you to know Him.

- God has revealed Himself through creation (see Romans 1:20 and Psalm 19:1–6).
- God has revealed both His character and His deeds through His Word, His Son, and His people (see Psalm 103:7).
- God has revealed Himself through His Word (see 2 Timothy 3:16–17)

Colossians 3:16 Moment:

"Let the Word of Christ dwell deeply in you."

Pastor/Teacher:

Pause during the sermon and share out loud your personal response to God revealing Himself through Scripture.

"My food . . . is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work" (John 4:34).

- God has revealed His absolute dominion over all things (Isaiah 40:21–26).
- God has revealed His desire that all His people be saved (1 Timothy 2:3–4).
- God has revealed His unconditional acceptance of us (Romans 5:8).
- God will reveal His wisdom to us if we ask for it (James 1:5).
- God the Father is revealed in the person of Jesus (John 14:9).
- God has revealed the ultimate destiny for those who follow Him (Revelation 21–22).

After you reflect on what God reveals to you, pray a special prayer of thanksgiving to God, praising Him for stirring up a fresh reminder of how He reveals Himself.

God, thank you for letting me know You. I want to know You more deeply and increase my closeness with You daily. I'm especially grateful that You let me know more about Your _____.

■ The Son loves the Father by yielding.

Nowhere in Scripture do we see the Father yielding to the Son. Indeed, the Father is always the one who commands, sends, and commissions the Son. And the Son, as a demonstration of His love, always yields to the Father. Consider the following statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John:

"I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me" (John 14:31).

"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love" (15:10).

"I can do nothing on My own initiative. . . I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (5:30 NASB).

"The Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does" (5:19).

"I . . . speak just what the Father has taught me" (8:28).

Jesus' commitment to yield was so strong that He described it as His very nourishment: *"My food. . . is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work" (4:34).*

In response to the Father's revealing, the Son yields. His yielding is so complete that Jesus says, *"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (14:9).* He perfectly represents His Father's will, ways, and heart.

P10. Humbly acknowledging to the Lord, ourselves, and others that it is Jesus in and through us who is loving others at their point of need

Colossians 3:16 Moment:
"Let the Word of Christ dwell deeply in you."

Pastor/Teacher:

Pause during the sermon and share out loud where in your life you may need to yield to the Lord more.

Engage in Community

"...Dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another" (1 Peter 5:5).

Plan a conversation where you talk to a spouse, friend, or small group about the privilege of receiving the gift of what God reveals and the responsibility that comes with yielding to Him. Use the previous list of scriptures as your self-assessment.

- How well are you doing with yielding to the Father? Assess yourself then talk with another person about your insights.
- How are you doing with yielding to God's commands?
- How are you doing with yielding to the Father's will and plans for your life?
- How are you doing with yielding to the Father's guidance and direction?
- How are you doing with yielding to the Father as you speak, act, and live with others around you?

I sense that I might need to demonstrate my love for the Lord by yielding to Him in _____.

- **Both the Father's revealing love and the Son's yielding love are dwelling in you.**

Again, in accordance with the desire that Christ expressed in John 17:26, you have received, in the person and presence of the Holy Spirit, both the Father's love and the Son's love. This love that dwells within us is fundamentally an others-focused love. We have been recipients of God's others-focused love: *"For God so loved the world that He gave..."* (John 3:16).

Having now been given the responsibility and privilege of giving this others-focused love, we must express it in practical ways to those near us—our spouse, children, family members, friends, and those we encounter in the course of our daily lives. We have the wondrous opportunity to express love to others in the same way that Jesus did—by receiving the Father's revelation and yielding to it.



L10. Practicing the presence of the Lord, yielding to the Spirit's work of Christ-likeness

Experience Scripture

"Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me" (Psalm 103:2).

Voice a special prayer of thanksgiving to God, praising Him for a fresh appreciation for the many aspects of His revelation. Praise the Lord for the wondrous truth that His nature is to disclose Himself to you. Finally, ask Him to take you into His confidence and reveal how the people in your life most need to be loved.

Dear God, thank you for revealing _____.

Father, I want to love the people whom you have placed in my life. Please reveal how I can love them best.