

# LET'S DO **Difficult**

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

## **Session 5: Love Is Difficult**

When considering a subject as deeply personal—and as universally experienced—as love, we must first recognize how profoundly our individual relationships and life experiences shape our understanding of it. For some, love evokes feelings of warmth, safety, and belonging; for others, it carries memories of pain, betrayal, or disappointment. Christian love—biblical love—is not defined by fleeting emotions or sentimental feelings. It is a calling rooted in accountability to the Truth. It is not shaped by opinion, circumstance, or the emotional climate of the moment. Rather, biblical love is anchored in the unchanging Word of God and demands action—actions that lovingly guide people into alignment with His purposes and plans for humanity. Love is not easy. But it is always worth it.

### **Scripture**

1 Corinthians 13:2–3 (NIV®)

*If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What does the world want us to believe about love? How is God's love the same as human love? How is it different? How does knowing God's love impact your life?
2. Share an example of when you've seen love "cover" evil in a relationship. How does God's love covering our sins impact how we love and interact with others?
3. Share an experience when you had to show "tough love" to someone. Share an experience when the Lord has shown "tough love" to you.
4. Describe a time when you were a part of or witnessed people having a difficult yet loving conversation regarding someone's life choices. What words did they use? What happened? How was the message received?
5. "If people you love are living in a way that will disqualify them from the Kingdom of God, it is not loving nor kind to be quiet." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
6. Truly loving others as ourselves and putting their needs above our own is only possible through the power of God in us. Share a time when this was particularly evident to you. Who do you currently find difficult to love and why? How do we balance justice and love when someone hurts us or others? Write a prayer asking God to provide the strength you need to love this person well.

### **Going Deeper**

1. In His own words, Jesus makes statements like, "*You snakes!*" (Matthew 23:33), "*They are blind guides*" (Matthew 15:14), and "*It would be better for him if he had not been born*" (Matthew 26:24). These comments don't sound very loving, but what is Jesus trying to emphasize in these statements?

2. It's important to realize that in the brokenness of our world, many have never experienced true, unconditional love. The plague of rejection permeates our deepest roots, even among those who call themselves believers. How have you or someone you know been touched by rejection? What steps have you (or this person) taken to overcome the feelings associated with that rejection? How can you use these same steps to help someone else? (*Derek Prince's book, **God's Remedy for Rejection**, offers very helpful biblical perspectives on rejection and how we can be free from it.*)
3. Culture tells us it is loving to allow people to define their own version of truth and happiness—they should be able to do what they want, when they want, and how they want, and be celebrated for it. This is not biblical love. Are you willing to stand for biblical love, or will you simply embrace and perpetuate the world's definition? Think about your immediate response to this question. How will that response hold up when you're standing before the Lord in the throne room of God?
4. What is your favorite example of Jesus showing love to others in a way that would not be popular among the influencers of today?

### **Prayer**

Take a moment to say the prayer below aloud together. Then, keep it nearby to read on your own throughout the upcoming week.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for Your great love for us. Nothing is hidden from You—no part of our lives, no behavior, no aspect of our character, and not even our thoughts—yet You love us anyway. We thank You for it. Thank You for offering Yourself on our behalf. We pause to acknowledge You and to lift our hearts to You. Holy Spirit, we ask for Your help. Give us understanding so we can begin to walk in love in a new way. Help us to understand the value and the significance of being Yours. We resolve to not allow the ungodly to influence us, but instead we humble ourselves and accept Your direction. In Jesus' name, amen.*



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