

- I. Understanding Love.**
 - A. The word “love” is used to describe our feelings about hundreds of things.**
 - B. Love produces feelings, but love is more than a feeling.**
 - C. Love is controllable (see John 15:12).**
 - D. Love is a matter of choice; it’s something we can “put on” (see Col. 3:14); we can make a decision to “wear it.”**
 - E. Love is a matter of conduct; it’s something we do; it’s an action verb (see 1 John 3:18).**
 - F. Agape love is an unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial love.**
 - G. Agape love is the ID of true followers of Jesus (John 13:35).**
- II. Jesus Demonstrated Agape Love.**
 - A. He loved people who were easy to love - people who loved him right back (see John 11:1-45).**
 - B. He loved people who were hard to love – people who were out to get him (see John 13:1-5).**
 - C. Jesus loved no matter what; he loved without expecting anything in return; he loved in a way that led him to give up what he could have kept for himself.**
- III. The Key to Loving Like Jesus Loved.**
 - A. Agape love isn’t something we can work up on our own; it’s a work that God does in us as we allow the indwelling Holy Spirit to control our lives.**
 - B. Agape love is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23) ...a manifestation of the being filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).**
 - C. If we have a true desire to love like Jesus loved, God will give us the strength to love like Jesus loved.**
- IV. Action Steps to Love Like Jesus Loved.**
 - A. Before we can love others we must understand and sense how much God loves us (see Eph. 3:16-18 and 1 John 4:19).**
 - B. Learn to forgive (see Col. 3:13).**
 - C. Think loving thoughts (see Phil. 2:4,5).**
 - D. Act in a loving way; love by faith – do what you know you should do and trust that God will make you feel good about doing it.**
 - E. Loving the hard to love (see Luke 6:27,28).**