



Freedom In Christ Church

Newsletter



The Essence of Growth

Teach Me: Love Unconditional Part 1

The verdict came back. I was found guilty. Guilty of loving upon condition. In my vows both as a follower of Christ and as a wife, I had vowed to love unconditionally. My intentions were always just that, and I believed I was, in fact, honoring that promise. The only problem was, I failed to understand what I had promised to do.

In my feeble mind, to love unconditionally meant to love no matter what. In sickness and in health. The good days and the bad days. The ups and the down. No matter what, I would still say "I love you".

Did you know, to love is an action? A verb. The love we will be talking about in this 3-part series is an action word. Not a feeling, not a phrase. Love requires a decision and dedication to execute to the full extent of the command, love unconditionally.

So, if I agreed to love no matter what, where did I go wrong? I was caught red handed in the act of using my love as a form of manipulation. I withheld my love when I didn't get my own way, or when someone didn't agree with me. Especially, when I felt offended, I used my love as leverage. Not just once, but for as far back as I dare to reflect!

Maybe the silent treatment. Maybe I withheld my affection. How about the times I replaced the gentleness in my voice with rude and harsh tones? Or how about the times I felt I "deserved" better treatment so I went on strike and purposely neglected my responsibilities, the very ways I show my love best. Oh, how many times my love proved to be conditional.

The day I came to this realization, that I had actually never truly loved anyone unconditionally, I fell to my knees.

Our Heavenly Father met me there. He wrapped me in His grace. He showed me where I was missing it and taught me the true definition of unconditional love. He taught me to love like Jesus.

Once I understood, I recommitted to love unconditionally. We have been called to love like Jesus. To love unconditionally means that you must love with the same intensity, constantly.

If you were tried and your love put to the test, would you be found guilty of loving upon condition? Are there ways you have used your love as leverage? Not just in your marriage, but in every personal relationship. At home or at work. Friends and family, church family. Our assignment as believers is to love everybody unconditionally.

Take some time now to reflect on your love walk. I encourage you to examine yourself. Have you missed the mark? Maybe you, like me, never truly understood what it meant to love unconditionally. Talk to your Heavenly Father. Lay it at His feet. Allow Him to cover you in Grace and to teach you to love like Jesus. For He himself, IS love.

His mercies are new every day. Every day is a new opportunity to give it your best and try again. As with any verb, any action, practice produces steady improvement. Be encouraged, greater is He who is in you. And you can do all things through Christ who is your strength.

Love does not demand its own way... Love keeps no record of being wronged. 1 Corinthians 13:5

Let's read 1 John 4:7-21 to gain understanding of the love the Lord expects of His children;

Loving One Another

"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 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. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is brought to full expression in us. And God has given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face Him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love. We love each other because He loved us first. 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? And He has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

Sister Leah Hockenberry



The Pantry of Hope

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers, and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Greetings to my Freedom In Christ Church family and friends and all those who receive our newsletters. What a great God we serve!!! "The Pantry of Hope" wants to give a special thank you to our church family for all the wonderful love offerings and grocery gift cards brought in for "The Happy Gift Card Giving for Thanksgiving!" Praise God, we were able to bless seven different families! I want to tell you, church, how much those seven families appreciated your love and kindness! They were thankful, grateful, and so blessed! Thank you Jesus that we are blessed to have the most loving, caring, and giving church, The Freedom In Christ Church. Wow, here we are in December 2020 already! Can you believe that? In just a few short weeks we will be celebrating Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! It's such a very special time of the year!

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God is so awesome! Christmas time is always a reminder to me about the vision that God revealed to me! One night I couldn't sleep, I tossed and turned, tossed and turned! Anyone else have one of those nights? What do you do? Just get up! So that's what I did, just got up! I went to the living room, sat on the sofa, and starting talking to God! God said: I so love the world that I gave my one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God gave me a message not just to keep to myself, but to share with others as well. The message: "The gift of giving!" With Christmas coming up, how we get so excited about giving gifts to our loved ones. It has to be the perfect gift, has to be wrapped with the most beautiful wrapping paper, with an eye-catching bow placed on the top of the package waiting patiently for the time to give the gift to that special loved one. What a blessed time! God said, I gave you Jesus and all who call on Jesus are saved through faith and God's grace! God said, I did not spare my own Son, but I gave Him up for all, how will I not also, along with Jesus, gracefully give you all things! Some just accept Jesus and not the rest that I have to offer! God showed me a huge box with the most beautiful wrapping paper and the most amazing bow on it! Along with Jesus I give you the most beautiful package! Anxious and waiting patiently to give you and everyone who belongs to Jesus Christ! You have to literally remove the bow, tear the paper off, remove the lid and dip into this package. In this package is all kinds of blessings, promises, benefits, directions for your life, healing, deliverance, prosperity, favor, etc. You have to keep dipping and dipping into this box daily, endless gifts I give to you! This package is an illustration of the Word of God, our Holy Bible! God wants us to keep in the Word daily. God loves a cheerful giver! Do you know that one of the best gifts to give yourself is the gift of giving, always being A NEED HUNTER! Hunting someone to bless! It doesn't always mean giving money! Just smile at someone, text or call, send a card to someone! Just brighten someone's day! Compliment someone, pray for someone, etc. Use the gifts and talents God blessed you with. On Dec 23, 2005, I stood up in front of Freedom In Christ Church giving my first message ever "The Gift of Giving" Thank you Jesus! That is what The Pantry of Hope is: Giving, loving, and caring! Thanks to our wonderful team members, Sister Bert, Sister Julie, Sister Loni, Sister Pat, and our newest team member Sister Marty! Thanks for your loving and caring hearts toward others! Thank you, Pastor John and Sister Leslie, for your support, love and guidance for The Pantry of Hope! Thank you, Freedom in Christ Church, for all the wonderful blessings you give to The Pantry of Hope!

Thank you, God for The Pantry of Hope!

Merry Christmas Everyone!

God Bless you all!

Love you, Sister Alma!

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KIDZ KORNER

MY NAME IS LISA DAYWALT. MY FAMILY AND I HAVE BEEN COMING TO FREEDOM IN CHRIST CHURCH FOR OVER 12 YEARS AND WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT HERE. OUR PASTOR, PASTOR JOHN IS AMAZING ALONG WITH HIS LOVELY WIFE. OUR CHILDREN'S PASTOR, PASTOR DANE, IS AMAZING AS WELL, ALONG WITH HIS LOVELY WIFE AND THE HEAD OF THE CHILDREN'S NURSERY. IT DID NOT TAKE LONG FOR ME TO FIND MY PLACE IN THIS CHURCH AND THAT IS WORKING WITH THE KIDS.

I AM SO THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE CHURCH HAS GIVEN TO ME. I STARTED OUT TEACHING PRETEENS AND THEY WERE MY WORLD. NOW I SEE THEM ALL GROWING UP SO FAST INTO THE MOST AMAZING YOUNG ADULTS AND IT DOES MY HEART GOOD THAT I WAS SO BLESSED TO BE A BIG PART OF THEIR LIVES, THAT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW LOVED THEY ARE AND HOW SPECIAL THEY ARE TO GOD. I STILL HAVE DRAWINGS AND GIFTS THEY MADE FOR ME AND GAVE TO ME. SO SENTIMENTAL, I WILL TREASURE THEM ALWAYS.

I NOW HAVE BEEN TEACHING THE 4- AND 5-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. WHENEVER GOD FIRST LAID THIS ON MY HEART, I REALLY DID NOT KNOW IF I WAS ENOUGH TO HANDLE THAT AGE GROUP, IF THAT MAKES SENSE. YA KNOW, THEY DESERVED SOMEONE WHO CAN KEEP UP WITH THEM, STAY UP-BEAT, AND BE PATIENT WITH THEM. TEACHING GOD'S WORD TO THEM IS SO IMPORTANT, COULD I DO IT SO THEIR TENDER LITTLE HEARTS AND MINDS COULD COMPREHEND IT?? WELL, I LEARNED VERY QUICKLY THAT WHO GOD CALLS, HE WILL EQUIP. HE DID THAT AND MORE FOR ME. I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE THESE CHILDREN AND EVERYTHING THAT I FEARED HAS COME SO EASILY FOR ME. THESE LITTLE PRECIOUS GIFTS FROM GOD ARE LISTENING, EVEN WHEN YOU THINK THEY ARE NOT.

THE BIGGEST THING THAT I MAKE SURE THEY GET DEEP DOWN IN THEIR HEARTS IS JUST HOW SPECIAL THEY ARE, AND HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE, HOW MUCH GOD LOVES THEM AND HOW THEY NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT TIME OF DAY IT IS, OR JUST BECAUSE THEY MAY BE SO YOUNG, THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO TALK TO GOD AND CAN

GO TALK TO HIM ANYTIME THEY NEED HIM. YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED HOW MUCH THEY ARE EAGER TO LEARN THE WORD AND HOW MUCH THEY ABSORB AND KEEP, PRAISE GOD. CHILDREN CAN SEEM SO HELPLESS TO US ADULTS AND THEY NEED US SO MUCH, BUT I'LL TELL YOU THAT I NEED THESE LITTLE GEMS MORE THAN THEY NEED ME.

THEY KEEP ME GOING, THEY LIFT ME UP, THEY MAKE MY LIFE FEEL SO REWARDING. I WANT TO BE THERE FOR THEM AS LONG AS OUR PASTORS AND GOD WILL KEEP ME THERE. THE HARDEST PART WITH THESE CHILDREN FOR ME IS WHEN, GOD LOVE THEM, THEY GRADUATE AND MOVE ON TO PASTOR DANE'S CLASS. THEY BECOME A BIG PART OF ME, AND I LOVE THEM SO DEARLY WITH ALL MY HEART. I AM PROUD OF THEM, BUT MY HEART MISSES HAVING THEM WITH ME. THE BEST THING IS, GOD JUST KEEPS BRINGING MORE AND MORE TO ME!

THOSE WHO GRADUATE FROM THE NURSERY OR, PRAISE GOD, WHEN WE GET NEW CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH, MY HEART WANTS TO BURST WITH GRATEFULNESS AND THANKFULNESS TO HAVE THEM. WE ALL DO! IT IS SUCH AN AMAZING FEELING! WE ARE ALL JOYFULLY ANTICIPATING OUR CHURCH'S NEW BUILDING FOR THE CHILDREN. WE WILL HAVE A NEW CLASS AND ALL THE ROOM WE WILL NEED FOR ALL THE AMAZING CHILDREN THAT WE HAVE, AND FOR THE HARVEST TO COME.

PLEASE KNOW, THE PEOPLE IN THIS CHURCH ARE FILLED WITH LOVE FOR GOD AND LOVE FOR EACH OTHER. OUR PASTOR, PASTOR JOHN, HAS A TRUE AND PURE PASTOR'S HEART AND YOU WILL BE SAFE HERE. YOU WILL BE LOVED HERE. PLEASE DO NOT THINK YOU HAVE TO BE A CERTAIN WAY BEFORE YOU CAN COME TO CHURCH, YOU DO NOT!! COME AS YOU ARE, JUST LIKE WE ALL DID WHEN WE STARTED. YOU WILL FEEL THE LOVE HERE AND YOUR CHILDREN WILL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF AS YOU RELAX AND TAKE IN THE COMPLETE HOLY SPIRIT FILLED PRAISE AND WORSHIP AND HOLY SPIRIT FILLED WORD OF GOD YOU WILL RECEIVE FROM OUR AMAZING PASTOR, PASTOR JOHN. COME EXPECTING BECAUSE IT IS LIFE CHANGING.

SISTER LISA DAYWALT

HELLO THERE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST! WHEN SISTER LEAH HOCKENBERRY ASKED ME TO WRITE A SHORT ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER, MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS,

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"OH MY, WRITING IS NOT MY THING". SO, I IMMEDIATELY TURNED TO MY HUSBAND AND SAID, "I'M SO EXCITED, LEAH ASKED ME TO WRITE AN ARTICLE!". BOY HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT BROUGHT ME A LONG WAY! I HAVE ONLY BEEN BACK IN THE NURSERY FOR A SHORT TIME SO I THOUGHT IT MAY BE NICE TO SHARE A LITTLE ABOUT MYSELF.

I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF FREEDOM IN CHRIST CHURCH SINCE 2013. THE FIRST TIME I CAME AS A VISITOR WITH MY HUSBAND, I IMMEDIATELY KNEW THAT THOUGH I HAD A GREAT CHURCH, FREEDOM IN CHRIST WAS MY NEW HOME. I HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH CHILDREN SINCE 2010 AND HAVE WORKED WITH CHILDREN FROM INFANT TO 18 YEARS OF AGE. I HAVE WORKED WITH CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AS WELL AS CHILDREN WITH MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL DIAGNOSIS. I HAVE WORKED IN EDUCATION AND CARE PROVIDER POSITIONS AND I AM CURRENTLY ON MY WAY TO EARNING AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

SO WHEN I WAS ASKED TO TRANSITION INTO THE NURSERY, I WAS READY TO JUMP INTO THE GREAT PLANS THE LORD HAS FOR ME. COMING IN I WANTED TO CONTINUE WHAT SISTER DARLENE HAD STARTED AND CONTINUE TO BUILD THE VISION THE LORD PLACED ON OUR WONDERFUL PASTOR, PASTOR JOHN'S HEART. IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE AND A BLESSING TO BE A PART OF THE TEAM. CHILDREN CAN DO MIGHTY THINGS THROUGH CHRIST, JUST LOOK AT DAVID! SO WE STRIVE TO CHALLENGE OUR CHILDREN AND WORK WITH PARENTS TO HELP THEM GROW IN CHRIST, SOCIALLY, ACADEMICALLY, AND PHYSICALLY. EVERY CLASS, THE CHILDREN START WITH SOCIAL SKILLS DURING FREE TIME THEN MOVE TO PRAISE AND WORSHIP SONGS AND DANCE FOLLOWED BY WATCHING A BIBLE STORY, TALK ABOUT THE STORY, AND OCCASIONALLY PARTICIPATE IN AN ACTIVITY CENTERED AROUND THE STORY.

AFTER OUR LESSON, WE DO OUR SILLY DANCING SONGS TO HELP US STRENGTHEN OUR MOTOR SKILLS AND LISTENING SKILLS. WE DO A BATHROOM RUN EVERY THIRTY MINUTES SO DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT WE HAVE A VARIETY OF GAMES WE PLAY OR GO OUTSIDE IF THE WEATHER PERMITS! IN THE NURSERY OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE A HIGH-QUALITY ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE, OVERFLOWING WITH GODLY LOVE, AND TO HELP OUR CHILDREN DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER! THE MORE RELATIONSHIPS OUR CHILDREN BUILD THE MORE LIKELY THEY ARE TO STAY. WE HAVE AN AMAZING TEAM THAT TRAINS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO CONTINUE TO BETTER OUR CARE. THAT BEING SAID, THERE IS NEVER TOO MANY! I WOULD LIKE TO

INVITE ANYONE WHO HAS EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEING A PART OF THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TO COME CHECK OUT OUR PROGRAMS! YOU WILL BE AMAZED AT WHAT THESE BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN ARE CAPABLE OF! EVEN IF YOU MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH WORKING WITH CHILDREN THERE ARE NUMEROUS WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS. IF IT IS ON YOUR HEARTS TO VISIT OR SUPPORT OUR CLASSES PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR DANE OR MYSELF! THANKS, YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!

AS FREEDOM IN CHRIST CHURCH CONTINUES TO GROW, SO DOES KIDZ IGNITING, PRAISE THE LORD! WE ARE BUILDING A TEAM OF SUPPORT STAFF FOR BOTH KIDZ IGNITING AND OUR BABY SPARKZ. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THIS INCREDIBLE TEAM, CONTACT PASTOR DANE OR SISTER INAYAH.

BLESSINGS – SISTER INAYAH POGUE



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Test Your Christmas Knowledge

1. How many miles did Mary and Joseph have to travel to get to Bethlehem?
2. Who appeared to tell Mary she was with child?
3. What does the name Immanuel mean?



WAYS TO GIVE:

PAYPAL @ FREEDOMINCHRISTCHURCH@YAHOO.COM

MAIL @ 4042 SYCAMORE GROVE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202

GIVE, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE. YOUR GIFT WILL RETURN TO YOU IN FULL-PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE, RUNNING OVER, AND POURED INTO YOUR LAP. THE AMOUNT YOU GIVE WILL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT YOU GET BACK. LUKE 6:38

Upcoming events

Christmas program

Dec 27th morning service at 10AM

Invite your family and friends

Pantry of Hope

Food and loose change Sunday

First Sunday of every month

Sister Lisa Pogue will bring the Word

January 3rd



Answers

1. 80 miles
2. The angel Gabriel
3. "God with Us"

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