

Week 1

Loveology Series

Before the Message

Get in chat/small groups and answer these questions

- What is Love?
- What does a healthy relationship look like?

The Intro

Did you know...that every week you get prayed for?

First off

I don't want to do this

Not gonna teach from the Bible

Divorce

Relationships

This is not what I want to talk about. It's just not. I don't want you guys to date. I certainly don't want you to date each other because it creates so much extra work for me. But it's important!

But let me give you my quick, brief reason of why I don't think you should date in High School. And you won't listen, and then you'll be like, "why didn't you warn me", and it'll be a great time.

But here is the reality, you have no idea what your future holds. I have no idea what your future holds. Your life will change so much, but what will probably happen is you will make decisions with a person, and you will either break up with them, or you will marry them. And no matter what, even if it's for a great reason, break ups are hard.

I'm not saying that you all need to break up with your person right now, however, if you are single, maybe you should be happy with that.

That is way better than going from person to person to person trying to find yourself. Figure out what path you want to go, and then while you are on that path, you'll probably find someone headed the same direction that you really like.

That being said! I want you guys to have the best relationships possible. I want you guys to have the best marriages possible. So, to do that, we are going to spend a couple of weeks looking at what the Bible says about relationships.

You might think, “oh sweet, a sex talk from Jordan again...WE GET IT JORDAN”. It’s actually going to be way worse than that. I’m going to tell you that you are really selfish people, and you don’t understand what love is at all. You ready for that?

What is Love

Okay. **What is love?**

Love seems like a catch all word. Like, I love tacos. I also love Shelbi(my wife). But those are not equal.

Then there is this idea that we just need to “love everybody”. What does that mean? It kind of feels more like a cover up for disagreement. And who are you to judge, you just want to love everyone. So, it gets messier, and messier.

And love often feels more like a passion for a thing. So, I love to hike, I love to exercise, I love to go on long car trips with my family. I love to sit in the corner of a busy place and read and people watch. But what about our love TO people? We often treat our love TOWARD people the same as our love TO stuff. I love hiking because of what it does for me. I love exercising because of how it makes me feel. I love people watching and reading because it relaxes me.

When I say “I love” those things, I’m actually talking about how much those things help me and are for my good. Those things make me feel good. Those things are for me.

Some of you see where this is going...

And if we use love, connected to a feeling, that makes us happy, as my favorite author John Mark Comer says, “**you’re in the passenger seat**”. You go wherever that feeling takes you. You don’t love that person, you enjoy being around them, until you don’t, and then you move on. Love as a feeling is pretty selfish. Behind all the excitement of “being in love”, what if there is a selfish person, looking out only for what will make them happy, saying ridiculous things like “I’ll do anything for you”.

Greek Words for Love

- **Eros** - erotic love
 - Passion, a love that masters you

- Emotionally driven
- Self-satisfaction
- “I love you because you make me happy”
- Not used in the New Testament
- **Phileo** – brotherly love
 - Companions.
 - It’s a love that responds to kindness
 - *John 21:15-17*
- **Storge**
 - Love based in one’s own nature
 - Natural affection, natural obligation
 - It’s a quiet, abiding feeling within a man that rests on something
 - *Romans 1:31, 12:10, 2 Timothy 3:3*
- **Agape**
 - The idea of prizing
 - It’s not kindled by merit or worth
 - It delights in giving
 - This love keeps on loving even when the loved one is unresponsive, unkind, unlovable, and unworthy.
 - *John 3:16, Romans 5:5, Gal 5:22*

Love as an Action

Love is supposed to be an ACTION. A verb. And at its core, very self-giving.

We look at **John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son...**”

Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church. Paul writes that husbands ought to love their wives as Christ loved the church. We cannot skip over that. That is HUGE. Christ loved the church so much, that he died for her. He gave up everything for the church.

But that doesn’t sound like the kind of love I see today.

You see, real love, is sacrificial.

In the gospel of John, we read this strange story of Jesus getting down and washing his disciple’s feet. They freak out because that is the job of the servant. But he demonstrates to them that love is not about being served but serving others.

Jesus talks about love a lot. He tells his disciples to love one another. He tells them the greatest commandment is “love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself.”.

When we strip down the type of love that Jesus was talking about, it was a sacrificial, self-giving kind of love. A romantic love is nice, but we are selling it short if it’s just that.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Here’s a few things that love is not

- Love is not abusing someone emotionally or physically to get something you want out of it
- Love is not making someone do something for you because it will make you happy
- Love isn’t even giving up yourself to someone's selfish desires.

To speak bluntly,

If you are being asked by someone to send pictures of yourself, or being pressured to do something physical, that person does not love you and they are selfish. They are driven by the emotion of love, the feeling of love, and they are making a choice to chase happiness at all costs, and that means, as soon as you don’t make them happy, they will move on.

If you are someone that is requesting pictures or pressuring someone to do something physical, you need to examine your life and figure out why are you willing to sacrifice the well-being of another person for your own happiness.

Chat/Small Group Questions

1. Look at the paper with all the Greek words for love and go over the definitions.
2. By yourself, read through 1st Corinthians 13:1-13. Have everyone share something they notice about this passage with the group when everyone is done. (Note. All the words "love" in this passage are from the form, AGAPE)
3. Someone in your group read Romans 5:8 out loud. What does that say about Love?
4. How do other people misuse the idea of love?
5. How can love be selfish? How can love be self-less?
6. Did your definition or idea of the meaning of "love" change?
7. What do you want your future relationship/marriage to look like? (Part 2) What can you do now to be ready?