

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

SEARCH FOR, FINDING, AND GIVING REAL LOVE



We live in a culture that is crying out for love - real love. The problem is that most people in our culture don't know where to find real love. They have been let down over and over again by people who were supposed to love them, to protect them, to look out for them, and to care for them. Because that need for real love is so strong, people search the world over for what they hope will be real love - to fill the emptiness in their hearts, to feed the craving deep inside - to be truly loved.

There is a song called "Looking For Love in All the Wrong Places" that summarizes how people of this world are desperately searching for real and perfect love. This song states the harsh reality that most people are looking in all the wrong places. If we were to survey the people around us, asking them to tell us the places they have searched for real love and the results of that search, we would find it heart breaking. People continue to search, but it is as if they are stumbling in the dark trying to find their way to the light switch.

Although this search for love sounds hopeless, nothing could be farther from the truth. All people need to know is where to search for real love. The real love that we all crave, that we all need, is found in God. He loves perfectly and is the source of perfect love. If people were to come to Him for that love, they would find their deepest needs met and their souls filled to overflowing with that love. Their search would end because they will have finally found what they have been looking for.

God sees the need for people to experience real love. He offers it freely from Himself, but He has also recruited an army of people who would

show others what real love is and help others find that love in God. That army is people like you and I. God sends people like me and you who have committed our lives to Him, who have experienced His perfect love, to love others and to lead them to the source of this perfect Love - God.

Look at the verses below that express this call for the followers of God to love others as He loves:

John 13:34-35

John 15:12-14

1 John 3:11-18

1 John 4:7-12

- What things in these passages stick out to you?
- What does it look like to love others like God loves us?
- How can you love like this?
- Who should we love like this?

One thing about loving others like God loves us is that we must experience God's love personally if we are ever going to be able to love others with the love they so desperately need. Look at the following passages which speak about this:

Matthew 10:7-8

Psalms 34:8

1 Peter 2:1-3

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Romans 12:1-2

- What does it mean to taste and see that the Lord is good?
- How does personally experiencing God's perfect love in action enable one to give that love to others?
- In what ways have you experienced God's love in your life?
- What about those experiences would be appealing to others around you?
- How can you grow in God's love and how can you give it away to others?
- Pray that God would show you His love and then use you to give it to the people He has placed in your life.

It is important for us to remember that our world needs real and perfect love. We also need to remember that the only place where that love is found is in God. We must also remember that God wants us to experience His perfect love and then to go out and love others with the love that He has given us. With His help we can show love to a world that not only is desperate for it, but is stumbling through life trying to find it.