

OVERALL QUESTION: What does **Love** “**LOOK**” like from the outside?
How will someone **see** that you “love one another”?

Today - # 3: **Mature** Love

Colossians 3 / Ephesians 4

 Get your Journal out or you phone to take notes!

Opening Prayer

- Take us on a journey
- Open our ears and hearts
- Stop us from being offended
- Convict us to align with you
- Help us to grow!
- Expand your kingdom, thy will be done!

Every message in the Series will land the same way

Gospel, application, accountability.



- A reference to Jesus and His good new
- One clear practical **application**
- One **action** to take this week
- One person to **share** it with that was not here today
- One close friend to **spur** you on and **support** each other in this task
- **Each will only help you grow stronger – no condemnation intended.**
(If you are struggling let me know.)
- But... **get comfortable with being uncomfortable**

Review Previous Messages

- Who can remember what they were about?



Review: Message 1 – Speech Message 2 – Loads and Burdens

Speech is a 2-Sided Coin: **Heads** - Build people up, **Tails** - Tame the tongue, stop gossip.

- 1. Every word you speak is either building the 'Church'... Or burning it down. (Eph 4/James 3)**
- 2. “Don’t do for someone what God is expecting them to do! But always help with what they cannot do alone.” (Gal 6)**

Something Beautiful Is Happening!!!....

- We were going to preach: Week 3 - “**Serve One Another**” Acts 2-4
- But many of you... are just doing it!
- People stepping in Helping quietly Checking on each other with Practical care
 - Meals
 - Furniture
 - Repairs
 - Transport
 - Support
 - Encouragement
 - Prayer
- 👉 That is what healthy love looks like Keep it up – OUT DO EACH OTHER -- “By this everyone will know...”

Today: We Must Have **Mature** Love

- **One truth** – One coin with two sides
- **The Three Coins**

(In your small groups go over this again
SOS: Say Obey Share & Use Your Coin)

Forgiveness & Bearing With One Another

- Colossians 3:12–14
Ephesians 4:31–32
- “Love **does not** keep score.
- Love **absorbs** cost.
- Love **chooses** to preserve the **relationship**.”

Colossians 3:12-14

- ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ **bearing with one another** and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other**; **as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Ephesians 4:31–32

- ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Mature Love - One Coin - with Two Commands

Heads - Command 1

- **Bear With Each Other**
- (Patience / Endurance / Long-suffering)
- **But Warning...** You can put up with someone *without* forgiving them!

Tails - Command 2

- **Forgive Each Other**
- (Release / Cancel Debt / Reconciliation, **Let Go**)
- **But...** Some people “forgive” but *walk away* from the relationship as the easy way out.

Only together do they form mature love.
The Holy Spirit can help you pursue reconciliation
where possible.

Heads: To Bear with One Another

- Endures (Put up with) their weakness
- Stays relational
- Opens up conversation not shut it down
- Helps them to grow in Christ
- **Model Assist Watch and Launch** is discipleship. (MAWL)
- First **model** what you want them to do!
- Don't quit quickly
- Make room for immaturity
- Remain patient
- ***Bearing with weakness is not the same as tolerating ongoing destructive sin***

Tails: Forgive One Another

- Graciously Release debt
- Refuse scorekeeping
- Absorb cost
- Cancel revenge
- Let bitterness die. (It's a pill that will only kill you.)
- **Forgiveness is an ongoing choice not a feeling or eliminating the problem by walking away!**
- 👉 "Love absorbs the cost instead of keeping score."

Best Example: Good News of Jesus Christ

- For **all** have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Rom 3:23)
- For the **wages** of sin is **death**, but the **free gift** of God is **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:23)
- ...but God shows his love for us in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)
- Here's the catch....
- **Col 3:12 & Eph 4:32**
- “As the Lord forgave you, so you also **must** forgive!”



- You offended God infinitely more than anyone has offended you.
- Yet Christ:
 - Moved toward you
 - Absorbed your debt
 - Paid your cost
 - Offered a way back to God (reconciliation)
-  **The cross is forgiveness with nails in it.**



As stated, Real Love always costs you something

- Why is money valuable?
- Because someone absorbs the cost.
- **A shiny coin** fresh from the mint has never been through circulation.
- **But a worn coin?**
- That coin has bumped into thousands of other coins.
- Handled. Scratched. Slightly Bent. Dented. Dropped. Lost and found.
- Yet it still has the **same** value!

Christian community is like that

- If you stay close to people long enough, there will be friction.
- Churches are full of broken sinful people. That includes you and me! (“Stuck in Traffic”)
- But **mature love** does not throw people away because of scratches and dents.

-  Love is easy at a distance.
Love is tested up close.
-  **Friction is not proof love failed.**
It is proof people are involved.





Two real coins... and one counterfeit.

- Some relationships look like love on the outside...
- 😊 Smiling outwardly
😡 Bitter inwardly
- 🤝 Polite publicly
🗣️ **Gossip** privately
- 🕊️ Avoiding conflict
❄️ Building distance
- 👉 Fake peace is not real peace.
- Real love forgives honestly.

The Danger

- **Unresolved Offence Becomes Poison**
- Small offences become:
 - Bitterness
 - Distance
 - Coldness
 - Suspicion
 - Gossip
 - Division
- Many churches do not explode overnight.
- They slowly freeze.
- “Mature love deals with wounds — it does not hide them.”

Forgiveness, Reconciliation & Trust

- **COMMAND:** Forgiveness - releases revenge, gives grace, & it hands judgment to God.
- **DESIRED:** Reconciliation - requires truth, repentance, and safety
- **EARNED:** Trust - rebuilds over time
- Some relationships become healthy again.
- Some require distance, boundaries, or leadership involvement.
- (Home Groups can dig into this more if they want to.)

What Mature Love Does

- **Love Absorbs Cost**
- Forgiveness always costs someone.
- Jesus absorbed OUR debt.
- Now we are called to:
Absorb offence
Release bitterness
Refuse scorekeeping
- 👉 “Love keeps no record of wrongs.”
(1 Corinthians 13)

Keeping it Real: Some People Are **Hard To Love**

- Some are **immature**, regardless of their actual age
- Some are **wounded**
- Some are **exhausting**
- Some **repeatedly fail** (As I do! I'm just better at hiding it.)
- And yet...
- God has had to “bear with” us too.
- 👉 Humility changes everything.

Scratch or Wound? (This is **NOT** two sides of a coin!)

Some things are:

- **Scratches**
- Just irritating friction
- Others are:
- **Wounds**
- (real sin/damage)
- Both matter...
but they are handled differently.

Scratches (“Bear With One Another”)

- These are usually:
 - personality friction
 - preferences
 - immaturity
 - misunderstandings
 - annoyances
 - style differences
- **These require:**
 - Patience
 - Humility
 - Conversation
 - Perspective
 - Grace

Wounds (“Forgive / Confront / Protect”)

These involve:

- real current sin
- damage
- abuse
- betrayal
- destruction
- ongoing unrepentance
- division
- **These require:**
 - Truth
 - Repentance
 - Forgiveness
 - Sometimes boundaries
 - Sometimes leadership involvement

Very Important Distinctions

- Not every irritation is abuse.
- But not every wound is merely irritation either.
- Disagreeing does not mean they Hate you!
- Balance and wisdom are gained during our walk with God.
- “Love covers many irritations... but love does not protect evil.”
- **“Some things require patience. Some things require repentance.”**
- **Some poor Christians use the excuse of “Bear with one another” to silence the people they wound!**

“Practical Wisdom”

How To Bear With One Another:

- **Slow** down
- **Ask** questions first
- **Assume** less
- **Listen** longer
- **Pray** before reacting
- **Speak** privately first (Matt 18)
- **Refuse** gossip – (talking about or listening to)
- 👉 Most conflict grows in the dark.

Diagnostic Questions

- Who am I still **holding unforgiveness** for?
- Who do I **avoid**?
- Whose name **changes** my attitude immediately?
- What offence am I **replaying**?
- **Have I asked God to forgive me of more than this?**

Call to Action This Week

- **Pray** for one person you struggle with;
Refuse gossip or scorekeeping;
Start one hard conversation gently;
Release one offence to God.
- And:
Who will you **share** this with
that was not here today?
- Who will **ask you** if you did it?

Conclusion

- Mature love:
Stays soft
Tells the truth
Lets go of bitterness
Keeps showing up
- 🙌 “Bear with one another... forgive one another... and above all these put on love.”
- Love stays.
Love releases.
Love heals.



Prayer:

- “Lord, teach us to love each other like You loved us.”

Today's Message can be found at
reboot.meetgodathome.com

