Don’t Take the Bait: Learning to Love People

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When We Forgive – We Must Forgive Completely!

We Must Totally Forgive Others

Until We Totally Forgive We Will Be Trapped By The Offense

Once We Release The Offense -- We Will Be Released
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We Are To Forgive As We Have Been Forgiven. -- (Col 3:13)

Jesus Has Forgiven Us Fully -- Without Conditions or Limits

We Must Forgive Like We've Been Forgiven = Complete And Total Forgiveness

To Totally Forgive Makes Us Godly -- Because God Alone Totally Forgive.
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Forgiveness = Release, Let Go, Relinquish, Get Rid Of Sin—For Us – For Others

When We Forgive A Person, We Are Not Avoiding The Pain, We Are Opening The Door To Healing.

To Overcome Offense We Must Be Enabled And Equipped With Godly Love

Nothing That We Are Called To Carries The Weight Or Impact Of Love
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We Are To Love God More Than Ourselves, And Our Neighbor As Ourselves.

The Life That Really Counts Is Life Filled With Love A Love That Is Concerned First With God, Then With Others

When We Truly Love God And Love People >>>

We Are Able To Reject The Bait Of Satan – We Can Overcome And Escape The Trap Of Offense
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(Mark 12:30-31 NIV) (30) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' (31) The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

The Commandments Can Really Be Summed Up In One Powerful Word: LOVE!
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It Never Fails?
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There Is Something That Never Fails

Love Never Fails

In The Church – In Order to Refuse the Bait of Satan -- We Need To Have The Kind of Love That Does Not Fail
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1 Cor 13:4-8;13 (NIV) "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." (5) "It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." (6) "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." (7) "It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (8) "Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away."

1 Cor 13:13 (NIV) "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."
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**LOVE IS:**
- Patient
- Kind
- Rejoices In Truth
- Always Protects
- Always Trusts
- Always Hopes
- Always Perseveres

**LOVE IS NOT:**
- Envious
- Boastful
- Proud
- Rude
- Self-Seeking
- Easily Angered
- Recording Wrongs
- Delighting In Evil
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Love Proves Whether What We Have Is Real

When We Demonstrate Real Love The World Knows That What We Have Is Genuine

We Need Godly Love To Overcome Offense!
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Love Will Create Opportunities To Share Christ

Real Love (Godly Love) Is Dramatically Different From The World’s Love

Real Love Provides A Positive Reflection Of Christ
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The World's Love Is Based On The Ability To Manipulate And Control

- It Is Love With A Dark Side

God's Love Is Based On Truth And Purity

- There Is No Dark Side To God’s Love=Pure Love
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Titus 3:3-5 (NIV) "At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another." (4) "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared," (5) "he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,"
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Rom 5:8 (NIV)  "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
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The World's Love = Give In Order To Get

God's Love = Given Freely -- Without Consideration

Mat 11:28 (NIV) ""Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
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(1 John 4:8 NIV) "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

(1 John 4:16 NIV) "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him."
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The World's Love = Criteria Continually Changes

God's Love = Is Unchanging Truth

John 3:16 (NIV) ""For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
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The World Doesn't Really Understand Love

Jesus Puts A High Premium On True Love

John 13:34 (NIV)  ""A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."" (35) "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.""
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The Prime Example Of Love Is Jesus

John 15:12 (NIV) "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." (13) "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."
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Jesus Does Everything Out Of A Heart Of Love

He Said "Father Forgive Them"

- Love That Is Victorious
- Love That Is Undefeatable
- Love That Is Undeniable
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The Purpose For Love

Many People Today Are Hurting

They Need Love:

◦ Undeniable Love
◦ Undefeatable Love
◦ Powerful Love
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Jesus Loved The Unlovely

He Loved Those Who Hated Him And Caused All Of His Problems

The N.T. Church Caught This Vision
  ◦ They Gave
  ◦ They Shared
  ◦ They Grew
  ◦ Because They Loved
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We Need More Love Displayed Today:

- Love That Goes Out Of It's Way
- Love That Goes The Second Mile
- Love That Forgets Wrongs & Overcomes Offense
- Love That Our World So Desperately Needs