

It's Who We Are

John 13:34-35, John 15:12-13, 15, and Romans 15:6

1. How do you show your love to those in your life? Do you treat those you love differently than those you don't love? A key point from Pastor Dave's message was from **John 13:34**: love is a command, not a feeling. He shared a definition of love: "Love is the loyal, sacrificial pursuit of another person's well-being." How does this verse and definition challenge the way you love others?
2. In **John 13:34**, we see that Jesus is our example of love. He demonstrates loyalty, sacrifice, and pursuit. What example do you demonstrate to those around you? As a church family, would you say we demonstrate these qualities?
 - a. What would it mean for us (as individuals & a church family) to be more loyal in the way we love people?
 - b. How can we be more sacrificial?
 - c. What would it mean for us to become *less passive* and pursue those God has placed in our life and our surrounding areas?
3. **John 15:5** reminds us that we need to stay connected to Jesus in order to be fruitful (to love others well). Pastor Dave mentioned that we remain in Him through the following disciplines: prayer, meditating on Scripture, and practicing His presence throughout the day. We need to ROOT ourselves in Christ. Take a few minutes to reflect on your branches. How healthy are they? What specific changes can you make, moving forward, to root yourself deeper into Christ?
4. Love matters to the world (**John 13:35**) and most importantly, it matters to God (**Romans 15:6**). Pastor Dave called love, "God's brand." The world is watching and they notice our love. As we love others, we bring glory to God. As His disciples and His church, what changes can we need to make, in order to better display "God's brand" to the world?
5. End your time in prayer, thanking God for His example of love and asking for the Spirit's help to love others well. Pray for opportunities to see the people God has placed in your life, and for specific ways you your small group, as well as the church, can demonstrate the love of Jesus. Pray for us as a church family to be unified in love.