



“Intentional Love”

Spring Circle Groups | Week 1

OPEN IN PRAYER & ICEBREAKER

MESSAGE SUMMARY

God's love is real, pure, and perfect. What disqualifies us by human standards of love does not apply to God's intentional love. Enemies of intentional love come in a variety of forms: insecurity, doubt, and a lack of vision or faith, just to name a few. To exhibit intentional love to the world around us, we must first embrace our heavenly father's love for us, overcome our struggles, and learn to love ourselves. When we do so, our lives can more effectively impact our families, communities, nation, and world for God's glory. Let's talk about intentional love!

Key Scriptures:

- Matthew 22:
- Psalm 139

Point # 1 – Receive God’s Love.

With so many expressions of "love" in our media, culture, and society, it is easy to get desensitized to the true meaning of love. We tend to regulate our love for others based on what we can receive, rather than what we can give. This transactional view may be socially accepted but does not display the heart of God. God's love is unconditional. It is freely given and does not carry a price tag.

- **Read 1 Peter 4:7-8; Psalm 139: 1-6**
- **Question: Have you ever felt unworthy of God's love? What lies have you believed that cause you to feel that way? How do these scriptures contradict the thoughts/habits causing you to feel disqualified?**

Point #2 – Our Pain can become our Testimony.

Love covers doubts, insecurities, and shortcomings. Christ's love travels to our deep areas of pain and helps us find a way back to Him. When we accept Christ's love for our lives, then we are free to love ourselves and others. Embracing our identity as Christ's beloved is our first step to intentional love.

- **Read 1 John 4:16-18; Psalm 139: 7-24; Psalm 139: 15-16**
- **Question: Share of a time when you were able to use a painful situation from your past to encourage someone? How does knowing that your pain can become a testimony to others encourage you?**



Point #3 – Love your neighbor as yourself.

When we put love in its proper place, we can freely serve the needs of our community. How do we do this? By changing our focus from religion to relationship. In Matthew 22, Jesus challenges religious leaders to focus on those they were called to serve, rather than focus on legalities. We too must serve and love those in our spheres of influence.

- **Read John 13: 34-35; Matt. 5:14-16**
- **Question: If loving others is a form of discipleship, what impact could intentional love have on the world around us? How are you stewarding your opportunity to love others and make disciples?**

CONCLUSION

If you have let doubt & insecurity steal your focus from God's love, it's not too late! Confess your broken places to the Lord and allow Him to fill you. Intentional love is the cornerstone of God's Kingdom. We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19)! As we fulfill Christ's mandate to Love God and Love people, we increase our ability to impact our families, communities, nation, and world. Let's decide today to rise above the shadow of our past, love intentionally, and watch God work through us!

- **Challenge:** This week, let's practice intentional love. Identify a need of someone you know. This could be a relational need, physical, etc. Chances are, if you noticed the need, you may be the solution. Brainstorm ways that you can show intentional love to this person. Next week, come ready to share what happened as a result of your intentional act of love.
- **Additional Challenge:** Take an accurate inventory of your heart condition. Are there areas of your heart that have become hard due to hurt? Confess your broken places to the Lord, release the hurts to Him and ask Him to heal you.

Announcements:

- **Serve with the Relentless Team:** No matter your gifts or experience, we have a place for you on the Relentless Team. As we continue to open up parts of the ministry, we would love you to be a part of what God is doing at our amazing church. Get off the bench and in the game! You can [visit ourrelentlesschurch.com/serve](http://ourrelentlesschurch.com/serve) to learn more!

CLOSE IN PRAYER