

LOVE IN ACTION — THE FINAL CHAPTER

Throughout this study, we've been learning what it means to truly love one another as Christ commanded us.

We've seen that love is more than something we say or feel. Love is something we demonstrate through our actions.

So far, we've discussed loving one another by serving, caring, bearing burdens, building each other up, encouraging, comforting, praying, forgiving, being patient, honoring, submitting, showing hospitality, and meeting physical needs.

Today, we'll finish by looking at four more ways God's Word teaches us to put love into action.

1. TEACH & CORRECT ONE ANOTHER

Romans 15:14

14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Paul expresses confidence that believers are filled with goodness and knowledge and are able to admonish one another.

Teaching Point: We should be willing to help one another grow spiritually. Sometimes love means helping someone recognize something they may not see in themselves.

Look back at Romans 15:2.

2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

Correction should come from a desire to build someone up, not tear them down.

Colossians 3:16

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Paul instructs believers to let the Word of Christ dwell richly within them, teaching and admonishing one another in wisdom.

Teaching Point: Before we can help someone else with God's truth, we need to allow His Word to become established in our own hearts.

Our instruction and correction should be rooted in Scripture rather than simply our personal opinions.

Galatians 6:1

1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Teaching Point: How we correct someone matters just as much as our reason for correcting them.

Biblical correction isn't about saying, "I caught you doing something wrong!"

It's about saying, "I want to see you restored."

The goal is restoration, not condemnation.

James 5:19–20

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,
20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Teaching Point: What a powerful demonstration of love it is to care enough about someone's spiritual well-being to help guide them back toward the truth.

Sometimes loving someone means having a difficult conversation because we genuinely care about where they're headed.

KEY THOUGHT: Biblical correction should always be motivated by love, guided by God's Word, and aimed at restoration.

2. SPEAK TRUTH TO ONE ANOTHER

Ephesians 4:15

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
Paul instructs believers to speak the truth in love so that we may grow into spiritual maturity in Christ.

Teaching Point: Truth and love belong together. We shouldn't use truth as an excuse to be harsh, nor should we avoid truth because we're afraid of upsetting someone.

Speaking truth in love helps us grow.

Ephesians 4:25

25 Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

Think about John 8:32, where Jesus says the truth will make us free.

What does lying accomplish?

- It keeps others from knowing the truth.
- It can prevent us from facing the truth about ourselves.
- It keeps us in bondage rather than walking in freedom.

Teaching Point: Honesty is essential to healthy relationships within the body of Christ. When we deceive one another, we damage the trust and unity God desires us to have.

Colossians 3:9

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

Teaching Point: Dishonesty belongs to our former way of living. As new creations in Christ, truthfulness should become part of our character.

KEY THOUGHT: Speaking the truth in love isn't simply about being honest. It's about using truth in a way that strengthens relationships and encourages spiritual growth.

3. WORSHIP & SHARE GOD'S WORD WITH ONE ANOTHER

Ephesians 5:19

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Teaching Point: Worship isn't only something that happens between us and God individually.

There is also a beautiful connection between believers when we worship together.

Our worship can encourage, strengthen, and minister to one another.

Colossians 3:16

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Teaching Point: Notice how God's Word and worship are connected.

When we worship together, there is a vertical relationship with God and a horizontal relationship with one another.

WORSHIP

GOD ↑ Vertical relationship

BELIEVERS ↔ BELIEVERS • Horizontal relationship

As we worship God together, we also minister to and strengthen one another.

KEY THOUGHT: Worship is directed toward God, but it also builds up the body of Christ as we share His Word and worship together.

4. HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER

Acts 2:42

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Teaching Point: Fellowship was an important part of the early church. They weren't simply attending a gathering and going home.

They shared their lives and remained connected to one another.

Acts 2:44

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

Teaching Point: Their fellowship went beyond simply spending time together. They shared a common faith, purpose, and commitment to caring for one another.

How do we develop that kind of fellowship today?

1 John 1:5–7

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John teaches that God is light and that when we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

Teaching Point: Our fellowship with other believers is connected to our fellowship with Christ. As we walk in relationship with Him, we should also be growing in our relationships with one another.

Hebrews 10:24–25

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Teaching Point: We need one another.
Gathering together gives us opportunities to encourage, strengthen, support, and grow alongside other believers.
Christian fellowship isn't simply about being in the same room. It's about sharing life together as members of the body of Christ.

KEY THOUGHT: Fellowship strengthens our relationship with God and with one another. We weren't designed to walk out our faith alone.

THE HEART OF LOVE IN ACTION

As we come to the end of this study, everything we've discussed comes back to the same foundation.

LOVE GOD

Matthew 22:37–38

37 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’
38 This is the first and great commandment.

♥ LOVE ONE ANOTHER

John 15:12–13

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

Matthew 22:39

39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
Love is the heart behind everything we do.

HOW WE PUT LOVE INTO ACTION

Serve one another	Care for one another
Bear one another's burdens	Build one another up
Encourage & comfort	Pray for one another

Forgive one another	Be patient
Honor & prefer	Submit to one another
Show hospitality	Meet physical needs
Teach & correct	Speak truth
Worship & share God's Word	Have fellowship

These aren't sixteen separate, unrelated Christian responsibilities.
They are sixteen expressions of the same love Christ has commanded us to have for one another.

CHRIST DID IT FIRST

Throughout this study, we've seen a common pattern.
Jesus loved us first. He served, forgave, encouraged, corrected, spoke truth, and demonstrated what genuine love looks like.
He never asked us to demonstrate a love that He Himself was unwilling to show.

1 John 4:19 — "We love Him because He first loved us."
John 13:35 — "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
People should be able to recognize the love of Christ in the way we treat one another.

FINAL THOUGHT

We've spent this study learning what God's Word says about loving one another.
But knowing the Scriptures isn't where it ends.
We have to put them into action.
When we serve, forgive, encourage, pray, speak truth, show hospitality, and care for others, we make the love of Christ visible.
Love isn't simply one more thing we're commanded to do. Love is the reason behind everything we do.
And when we live that way, we're showing the world what Jesus looks like through us.