

Influential love – IN Connex Notes.

John 15:12-17

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. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, that you love one another.

So what is Influential love?

A love that no one can take away from you, you can only give it.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life.

Conditioned to Give

We live in a world of giving and taking. **We are conditioned to give at certain times and to take at others. Hopefully we can do so gracefully.**

We give at Christmas, birthdays, special events like the birth of a baby, when someone buys a new house or even Valentines day. We give gifts. We are conditioned to do so and the Westfield's, the shops and super stores will not let us forget it.

But we have seasons also where we take. When we are sick, lonely, we take the care offered by people. When we have need of something to eat we take the food. When we have need of something to drink we take a glass of water.

We are conditioned to do this. It's not wrong. We are meant to be both givers and takers.... At the right time.

Taking too much

Now some people take the 'taking thing a bit too far.' They become so engrossed in what they give they lose sight of one of the most powerful weapons known to man. The power of giving.

These people start asking the wrong questions. What's in this for me? How does this affect me? Why did they not do this for me?

Influential love is a giving love more than a taking love.

The power of giving

Giving releases.

Proverbs 18:16

A Mans gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.

What we do in the area of giving goes before us like a gift to a great man.

In centuries past people would give gifts to king or queens. The value or strength of their gifts actually influenced the king or queen. The value of their gifts told the king and queen what value the person placed on the King or queen. In history there where plenty of times when someone's gift was declared not enough.

The Principle is one of giving makes room for you.

It makes room in someone's heart for you.

Influential love is a giving love.

So the question is begged... how can you be a person whose love is influential?

What characteristics make your love influential?

1. Selfless not self serving-

- We think of others before we think of ourselves.
- People actually get shocked by this. They admire it.
- Serving someone else first. Allowing others to go before you.
- Philippians 2:5-11 lets this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus who did not consider it robbery to be equal with God but made himself of no reputation.

A. HOW CAN WE APPLY THIS TO OUR LIVES?

2. Noble not noticed

- a. We do things not to get noticed but because **they are right thing to do**
- b. Some people don't even realise what they did got them noticed when they talked a wrong someone else did.
- c. The noble thing to do is to cover – 1 Peter 4:8 Love covers a multitude of sins.

B. HOW CAN WE COVER A SOMEONE WHO HAS DONE SOMETHING WRONG TO US?

3. Self sacrificing not self gratifying

- a. Laying down of something you want to do to help someone else get what they want.
- b. Figuring out ways to make sure the other person is made happy around holidays.
- c. You can change someone's world for the better.

4. Caring more than charming

5. Consistent not situational

- a. Doing things consistently not just because the situation demands it.
- b. Are you a person who always asks forgiveness?
- c. Things can be different. You can make a difference in someone's world through consistency.

6. Its from the heart not the head

7. It goes the second mile not just the first

- a. In biblical times people were only obliged to travel or to help you a certain way or certain distance. Jesus was challenging this. Matthew 5:41
- b. You can make someone's life better. You can be a huge help to someone, just by doing that little bit more.

C. IN CHURCH LIFE HOW CAN YOU GO THE SECOND MILE?

8. Forgiving not just forgetting.

- a. Too many people are counselled to forget their past and not forgive someone including themselves.
- b. Its easier to forget or move on than to forgive.
- c. Forgiveness is much deeper than forgetting or moving on.
- d. It goes right to the heart of the matter
- e. Matthew 6:14 'If you forgive men their wrongs, your heavenly father will forgive you yours.'

D. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS SCRIPTURE MEANS?

- f. There is a spiritual connection that occurs when we talk about someone who has wronged us instead of covering. We open ourselves up to a whole gambit of problems. The main one being we end up doing something similar to what was done to us. Maybe not back to the person but to someone else.
- g. Un-forgiveness binds things to us. Forgetting just puts them in the backpack of our lives and weighs us down. 'Out of sight, out of mind'. But not always out of your life.
- h. Have you ever had someone do something to you or someone else that needs your forgiveness? Then give it.
- i. Illustration of backpack and un-forgiveness.

Backpack – when we just choose to forget not forgive.

When something happens – 'You've always done this.' Or the situation doesn't get remembered but the driver behind it does.

Insecurity, injustice, rejection, hatred can all lead to anger, bitterness and further un-forgiveness.

But I want to tell you today, things can be different. They don't have to be the same. You can forgive the person. You can cover their wrongs. You can be a life to someone.

Forgiveness will give you the freedom you are so hungry for. It will release someone inside of you. Forgiveness will bring the blessing of God on your world.

If you need help please seek it out.

Ask God to help you.

Some more characteristics of influential love.

9. Open not hidden

- a. Secrets destroy you. Hidden things destroy you
- b. Do you have secrets in your world that are eating away at you?

10. It can be painful not always pleasureable

Laying down our lives for someone is just that. Laying down our life.

It means making a fool of yourself. Being humble enough to ask forgiveness even when you where trying to do something right. This is the God way of life. Its influential love. It will change situations, make them better and release you into something amazing.

If you have been hurt, then today I ask that you join with me in prayer.

Today I ask you, church we are building a place of influence in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. Its up to us. We can offer forgiveness and cover something or we can offer strife and un-forgiveness and talk about it. Its up to us.

Lets make the decision to cover and release forgiveness.

That's influential love in action.