

TRANSFORMED

BEING EVERYTHING GOD WANTS ME TO BE

"Love"

January 22-28, 2012

PRAYER:

Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer.

Opener:

What was one of your favorite love songs when you were a teenager?
When in your life have you felt the most loved?

The Bible tells us there are certain steps we need to take to learn to love people.

Read: Ephesians 3:17-19

First, before we can love others, God wants us to *feel His love*, and He wants us to *understand His love*. Why?

Secondly, in learning to love others we must *forgive those who have hurt us*.

Read: Colossians 3:13

Is it possible to give total love when your heart is divided?

Why is it important to let go of the past?

Another step in learning to love others is to *think loving thoughts*.

Read: Philippians 2:4-5

What does it mean to think loving thoughts?

Fourthly, in learning to love others, we need to *act in a loving way*.

Read: Luke 6:27-28;35-36; Ephesians 4:2

How do we do good to people we don't even like?

Lastly, learning to love others may be difficult but we need to *expect the best of even those you don't like*.

Read: I Corinthians 13:7

Love expects the best. Have you discovered that we tend to live up to what people expect of us? When we expect the best, we bring out the best. This is loving by faith and loving by faith is the greatest force in the world. Love is contagious, and it changes people. It can transform a personality!

You may be thinking, "Well, I would like to change my mate." Do you want to know how to do that? The secret is in one sentence. This is how you change anyone – your mate, your children, a coworker: *treat that person the way you want him or her to become!* Do you want your mate to succeed? Treat your mate as if he or she is a successful person. Do you want your children to be smart? Treat them as if they are intelligent, not stupid. Do not do this as an act of manipulation but because you genuinely believe in them. Love expects the best.

Plan for Action:

Love is not simply the first fruit mentioned; it is actually the fruit. All the other fruits are simply expressions of love. Love is patient, Love is kind. Love is joyful. Love is the basis of all positive actions.

Picture in your mind the person whom you find hardest to love – an obnoxious relative, a troublesome neighbor, or a disagreeable coworker. How can you learn to love this kind of person? What steps will you take?

How can this group pray for you this week?

To view the complete teaching from the Sunday services go to CentralCommunity.org/media

central community church

Our Mission is Changing Lives: *Turning uncommitted people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.*
www.CentralCommunity.org | 6100 W. Maple St. | Wichita, KS 67209 | 316.943.1800