

## FRESH START

JANUARY 16, 2022

## EXTENDING GOD'S LOVE TO OTHERS

## PRECEPT

## ROMANS 5:11

<sup>11</sup>So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

## 1 JOHN 4:11-12

<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. <sup>12</sup>If we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is brought to full expression in us.

## PROMISE

Without a doubt, it is easy to love the people who loves us back. What about those people who are quite unlovable? Unkind, unfair, uncaring, unruly, and all those negative traits. What we do not realize at times is that these people are also us, in the eyes of others or even in the eyes of God. We can do a lot of things against His will yet He still loves us. What does God say about loving these kinds of people? How can we love them just like how God loves us?

**PROOF OF GOD'S LOVE.** It's vital to understand God's love for us before we can extend this same love to others. Romans 5:6-11 tells us, <sup>6</sup>*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.* <sup>7</sup>*Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.* <sup>8</sup>*But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Evidently, God's love is unconditional as it is not dependent on what we have done or what we are going to do. Nevertheless, He loves us unconditionally and sacrificially. He died in behalf of us when we were the ones supposed to be doomed for condemnation.

**PROVISION OF GOD'S LOVE.** It's only because of His love that we are reconciled with the Father. We have escaped God's wrath and we are no longer enemies of the Holy One because of Christ's death. Today, we enjoy the freedom brought by the atonement of Christ. We are reclaimed, freed, delivered, and ransomed by Christ's resurrection. Romans 5:9-10 says, <sup>9</sup>*Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!* <sup>10</sup>*For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!*

**PRODUCT OF GOD'S LOVE.** God demonstrated His love for us by sending His Son to die for us, and now He has considered us as His friends. We now have established a new relationship with Him, and this results to us extending this new relationship with God and others. We can see that His love transforms us and that we are transformed to love others. Here are some practical ways for us to love others:

**Build the Right Mindset:** Understand that we were unlovable and that God loves us despite the fact. We are not better than anyone else, so focus only on God so that we can appreciate His grace, mercy, and love for us.

**Build Connection:** Listen to others and find the good in each person you meet. Try to focus on the positive qualities of others for us to love them better. Each of us will have unattractive traits because nobody is perfect except Christ, so attempt to understand the person instead and where he/she is coming from.

**Build Relationship:** Start reaching out and inviting people to your life. Be available for others and intentionally spend time with them. Find ways to continuously improve your relationship with others. Also, be accountable with others and be genuine with them.

## PRACTICE

**1. Transformation.** In today's lesson, we learned that God's love is meant to transform us, but the process isn't always easy, so what is an area in your life that God is lovingly trying to transform so you can love others better?

**2. God's Love.** How does seeing God's love expressed through Christ in your own life encourage you to show the same kind of love to others who may not see the world the same way you do?

## PRAYER

## I. North Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they start & lead the groups: Ocampo, Ico, Abellera.

## II. East Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they start & lead the groups: Domingo, Torres, Imperial, Gumasing.

## III. South Life Connections

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they start & lead the group. Pray also for God to raise up more leaders.

## IV. West Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they start & lead the groups: Solidum, Fabregas, Oliveros, Aguilar.

## V. Downtown Life Connections

- Pray for the Gamboa couple as they start & lead the group. Pray also for God to raise up more leaders.

## VI. Pastors and Elders

- Pray for guidance, provision, & safety for Ptr. Jeffrey & Roann Basco & all our elders.

## VII. Volunteers

- Pray for overflowing joy as volunteers serve the Lord and His people.