

DIGDEEPER

September 4, 2016

Why Love? by Dr. Richard Rogers

1 John 4:7-14 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

As Christians, love is the distinguishing mark of God on us and the empowering work of God in us. It is both the source of our Christian life and the motive for our Christian living. Love should be the brand that Christians wear and by which the world knows us. But acting in love is oftentimes difficult in our complex world. What does it mean to be loving when circumstances are not black and white?

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

- What type of person do you find difficult to love?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Richard defined love as, “Valuing another so much that you give to them what is required, no matter the cost to you.” In what ways is this definition different than others you’ve heard? And how do those differences matter?
- Richard made the claim that we cannot truly love others until we know the depth of our own sin. Why does knowing our own sin affect how we love others?
- List some of the ways God has loved you. How has his love for you changed the way you love other people?
- If someone were to “brand” your life based on your recent actions toward them and conversations with them, what might that brand be?

GO DEEPER

- John Piper looks at Jesus’ command that we love our enemies and explores [how difficult \(but necessary\) this love is in our complex world.](#)
- What did Jesus mean when he told us to love one another? Andy Stanley argues that [we can know what he meant by watching what he did.](#)
- RC Sproul reminds us of [the primary place love must have in the life of a Christian](#) while simultaneously reminding us that we cannot love on our own.
- Dane Ortlund reminds us that love is [one thing all New Testament authors agree on.](#)

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Left to our own devices, we will not love. True love is empowered only by the work of God in us through Jesus Christ. Take time this week to examine your own heart before God as you read Scripture and pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to the great love God has shown you. Prayerfully beg God to make you more aware of and grateful for this love. Then, look for Spirit-led opportunities in everyday relationships to make Jesus known by loving others (both strangers and friends) in the way he loved you.