

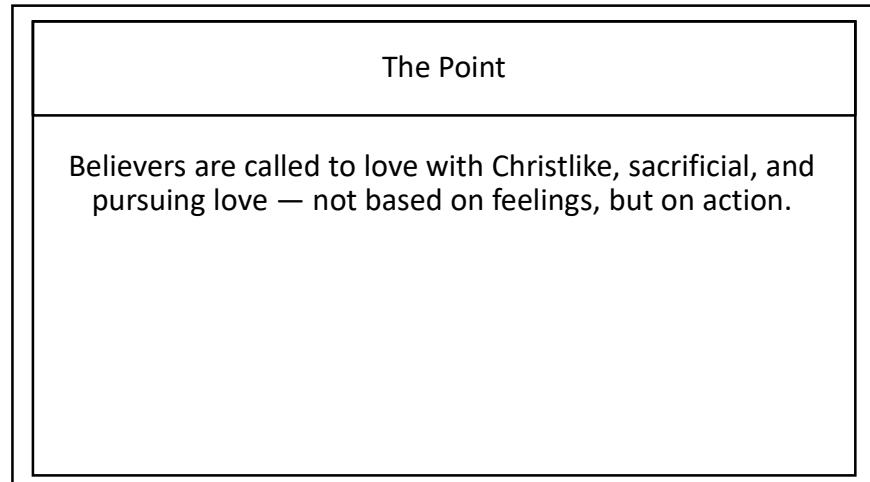


1

Ephesians 5 (ESV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

2



3



4

Love is Not a Feeling, It's an Action

- The call to agape love applies to every Christian — seniors included — in relationships with family, friends, caregivers & community.
- True love is shown in tangible acts of kindness, service & encouragement, not just words.

18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18 ESV)

5

Love is Not a Feeling, It's an Action

- We can model Jesus' love by showing patience & care even when others don't reciprocate.

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 ESV)

- Unlike fleeting emotions, agape love is steady & unconditional.

(1 Corinthians 13:4–7)

6

Love is Not a Feeling, It's an Action

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;[a] 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

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Sacrificial Love



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8

Sacrificial Love

- Every believer is called to lay down selfishness & serve others as Jesus did.

13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13 ESV)

- Sacrifice means putting others first – We can show sacrificial love by giving time, listening, or serving in small but meaningful ways.

(Philippians 2:3–4)

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Sacrificial Love

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3–4 ESV)

- Jesus' sacrifice was to sanctify His people; believers can encourage others' spiritual growth through prayer & support.

26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (Ephesians 5:26 ESV)

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Sacrificial Love

- As seniors we can provide wisdom, prayer covering & encouragement to protect others spiritually.

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2 ESV)

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Building Cherishing Relationships

- Jesus continually seeks His children; we can reflect this by pursuing relationships with intentional care.

10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
(Luke 19:10 ESV)

- Being present — listening, noticing needs & showing interest — is a powerful form of love.

10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ***(Romans 12:10 ESV)***

13

Building Cherishing Relationships

- To cherish is to treasure & nurture others, just as Jesus cherishes His church.

(Ephesians 5:29 ESV)

- Pursuit Strengthens Spiritual Growth Together
- As seniors we can encourage prayer, Bible study & use of spiritual gifts among peers & family.

(Hebrews 10:24 ESV)

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Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

• Wisdom	• Prophesy
• Knowledge	• Discernment/Distinguishing Spirits
• Faith	• Speaking in different kinds of tongues
• Healing	• Interpretation of tongues
• Miracles	

Spiritual Gifts (Beach UMC)

• Administration	• Evangelism	• Leadership
• Apostleship	• Faith	• Mercy
• Craftsmanship	• Giving	• Prophesy
• Creative Communication	• Helps	• Shepherding
• Discernment	• Hospitality	• Teaching
• Encouragement	• Intercession	• Wisdom
	• Knowledge	

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Spiritual Gifts (kodachrome.org)

• Administration	• Faith	• Mercy/Compassion
• Apostleship	• Giving	• Miracles
• Celibacy	• Healing	• Missionary
• Craftsmanship/ Artist	• Helps/Service	• Music
• Discernment/ Distinguishing Spirits	• Hospitality	• Pastor/Shepherd
• Encouragement	• Intercession/ Prayer	• Poverty (Voluntary)
• Evangelism/Evangelist	• Knowledge	• Prophecy
• Exhortation	• Leadership	

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Practical Application

- Remember that Jesus' sacrificial love is the model for how we love others.
- Share wisdom about what Jesus' love looks like in marriage, family & community.
- Ask God to strengthen you to love sacrificially & walk faithfully with Jesus.
- Show self-giving love to neighbors, staff & fellow residents through kindness & service.

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Practical Application

- Lean on Jesus when feeling lonely or overlooked.
- Cherish others intentionally.
- Thank God for examples of Jesus' love you've seen & experienced.
- Encourage spiritual growth in this community.

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Discussion Questions

- What are some practical ways we can show agape love in this community, even when feelings may not be strong?
- What are small, everyday sacrifices we can make to reflect Jesus' love to family, caregivers, or fellow residents?
- How can we cherish & honor those around us in ways that make them feel valued & seen?
- How can seniors encourage each other's prayer life, Bible study, or use of spiritual gifts?
- How have you experienced or demonstrated this kind of love in long-term relationships, friendships, or caregiving?

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