



DISTINCTIVELY CHRISTIAN

1

John 13 (ESV)

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

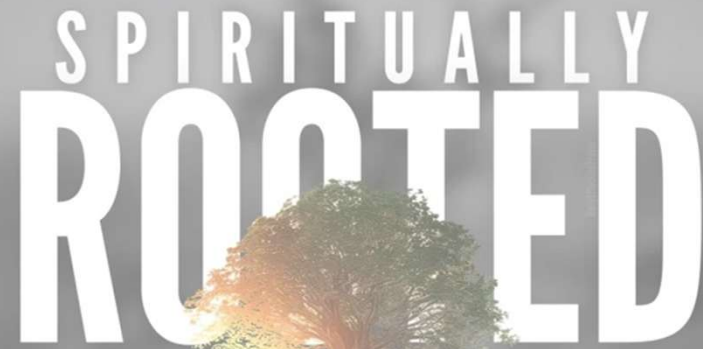
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Theme

Christian caregiving reflects Jesus' love

- Christian caregiving is not just helping - it is witnessing.
- Every act of compassion becomes a small picture of Jesus' love.

3



**SPIRITUALLY
ROOTED**

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Spiritually Rooted

- In John 13:34 we see that caregiving becomes distinctively Christian when it flows from the love Jesus has already poured into us.
- Jesus sets the standard - His love is patient, sacrificial & steady.
- Caregiving becomes holy when we love from His strength, not our own.

5

Spiritually Rooted

- Tasks matter, but love gives them meaning.
- Even small acts become spiritual offerings.

13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1–3 ESV)

6

Spiritually Rooted

- The Spirit grows kindness & patience in us.
- These qualities often grow because of caregiving.
- God uses the caregiving journey to shape our hearts.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22–23 ESV)

7

Spiritually Rooted

- Caregiving becomes a daily “putting on” of Jesus attitudes - compassion, humility, gentleness.

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, (Colossians 3:12 ESV)

8

Spiritually Rooted

- When we honor our loved one - even when memory fades - we honor Jesus Himself.

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

- Christian caregiving begins in the heart.
- It is not powered by willpower but by the Spirit.
- When we feel tired or unseen, God sees every act of love & calls it precious.

9



10

Shaped By Faith

- Our faith doesn't just inspire our caregiving it transforms the way we do it.
- Caregiving often requires setting aside our own comfort.
- This is Christlike love in action.

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:4 ESV)

11

Shaped By Faith

- Dementia care especially requires a soft voice, a calm presence & a humble heart.

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, (Ephesians 4:2 ESV)

12

Shaped By Faith

- God understands the frustrations we face.
- Walking patiently with someone's limitations is a Christlike calling.

15 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. (Romans 15:1 ESV)

13

Shaped By Faith

- Every encouraging word, every patient response, becomes a ministry.

14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. (1 Thessalonians 5:14 ESV)

14

Shaped By Faith

- Caregiving becomes a testimony - not through perfection, but through love that keeps showing up.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16 ESV)

- Faith doesn't remove the difficulty of caregiving, but it gives purpose to every moment.
- We shine Jesus' light in quiet, unseen ways.

15



16

Reflecting Jesus & His Love

- Caregiving becomes a living picture of Jesus' heart for the world.
 - Jesus' love is the model - steady, forgiving, unconditional.
- 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12 ESV)**

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Reflecting Jesus & His Love

- We love because we have been loved first.
- 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:11 ESV)**
- Every act of care- feeding, bathing, comforting - is received by Jesus Himself.
- 40 "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:40 ESV)**

18

Reflecting Jesus & His Love

- We represent Jesus in rooms where hope is needed most.
- 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20 ESV)**

19

Reflecting Jesus & His Love

- Caregiving becomes worship when we imitate Jesus' love.
- 5 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV)**
- We show Jesus to the world - not through sermons, but through tenderness, patience & presence.
 - Our caregiving becomes a living gospel.

20

Discussion Questions

- What makes your caregiving distinctively Christian?
- How does your faith shape the way you care for your loved one?
- In what ways do you reflect Jesus' love through your caregiving?
- How do you stay spiritually rooted when caregiving becomes difficult?
- What fruit of the Spirit do you see growing in your caregiving journey?

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