

THE WORD OF LOVE

The Seven Greatest Words of Love, Part 3: John 19:25-27

Rev. Steve Norman

February 21, 2021

“Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple (John) whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, ‘Dear woman, here is your son,’ and to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.”
John 19:25-27 (NIV)

MEMORY VERSE

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, . . .” Philippians 2:5-7

TO LOVE LIKE JESUS...

1. I MUST CARE FOR MY OWN FAMILY

• BY PAYING ATTENTION

“Honor your father and your mother.” Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

• BY MEETING PRACTICAL NEEDS

“Show respect for widows who really are all alone. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they should learn first to carry out their religious duties toward their own family and in this way repay their parents and grandparents, because that is what pleases God.” 1 Timothy 5:3-4 (TEV)

“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV)

• BY GIVING EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

“Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble.” Proverbs 17:17 (MSG)

2. I MUST TREAT OTHER BELIEVERS AS FAMILY!

“Do not rebuke an older man (in the church), but appeal to him as your father. Treat the younger men as your brothers, treat the older women as mothers, and treat the younger women as sisters, with all purity.” 1 Timothy 5:1-2 (TEV)

“Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other.” Romans 12:10 (GW)

“Whenever we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:10 (NCV)

“Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2 (NLT)

3. LEARN TO SEE OTHER'S PAIN EVEN WHEN I'M IN PAIN

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:5 (NIV)

“Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.” 1 Peter 4:1 (NIV)

4. MEET OTHER'S NEED EVEN IF MINE AREN'T MET

“Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, ‘How can I help?’” Romans 15:2-3 (MSG)

“When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out. Get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.” Romans 12:13 (NLT)

WHEN GRIEVING

• REMEMBER JESUS CARES ABOUT MY PAIN

• ACCEPT LOVE FROM OTHERS

• LOOK FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO HELP

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Father, I know there are many people are in pain today. I want to care about them the way You do. Help me to remember that You care about our pain. Thank You for these lessons that You modeled in this message even in Your dying moments.

Jesus, thank You for caring about my pain. I don't want to wallow in it but I do want to use it to draw closer to You and learn how to love and to help others. Help me to receive love from others. Help me to offer it to others. I want to learn to really love, not have fake love, not phony love, not plastic love, not shallow love. I want to learn to love like Jesus loves.

So, God, I cannot possibly do this without Your power in me. Help me this week to pay attention to the people in pain and in grief around me. Remind me of practical ways to help other people, and help me to look for ways to offer emotional support. I know that if I care I'll be aware, so put someone on my heart this week.

Most of all, Jesus, help me to look to You. Thank You for dying on the cross for me to solve my greatest pain, eternal separation from You. Help me to see others' pain even when I'm in pain, and help me to learn to meet other's needs even if my needs are not met. I want to learn the very purpose of life – to learn how to love. I humbly ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.