

# sermon notes

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January 24, 2021 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Harvest Decatur  
Dare to Be Different | **“Dare to Be Loving”**

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## **Three ways to live a loving, Christian life in this world:**

- 1) Be a \_\_\_\_\_ Christian
- 2) Be a \_\_\_\_\_ Christian
- 3) Be a \_\_\_\_\_ Christian

## **Counterfeit “Loves”**

Love is not \_\_\_\_\_

Love is not \_\_\_\_\_

Love is not \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions for further application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

How is biblical love counterfeited in our world? Of the three counterfeit loves mentioned above, which is the most prominent in the world today? How do we know that these are counterfeit loves and not true love?

Is love an act of the will or a demonstration of our feelings? Why does Paul emphasize that love always rejoices in the truth (1 Cor 13:6)? Read the article by Tony Evans on the intersection of “Feelings and Truth” to help you with this: <https://tonyevans.org/feelings-and-truth/>.

How does this article help us to align love and truth? Interact with the following quote by Tony Evans: “feelings must always be the caboose of the train, never the engine.” Agree or disagree? See the following article from John Piper for a different perspective on this issue:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/fact-faith-feeling>

### GET PERSONAL

Ask yourself this question: “Am I a Loving Person?” How would you define “loving”? Are you using Biblical standards (cf. Eph 5:1-2; 1 Jn 3:16; 1 Cor 13) to define it? What are some ways that you could become more loving towards your family, your church, your neighbors, and unbelievers?

What is the ultimate demonstration of love in the Bible? How do we realistically obey the command of 1 John 3:16 (“he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers”)? Can we really imitate that kind of love?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Consider the people in your life that know you the best (e.g. friends, co-workers, family, children, spouse). Consider your love for them in light of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Is your love for them kind? Is it patient? Is it rude? Is it irritable and resentful? Does it rejoice in truth? Does it celebrate evil? Is it forgiving? Write down two or three ways that your love for them is short of the standard of 1 Corinthians 13 and ask God for help in loving them better.

In 1 Corinthians 13:5, Paul writes, love is not “resentful” (NIV – “keeps no record of wrongs”). What does that mean? Do you struggle with resentment? How does love motivate you to forgive and release another person from the obligation to make up for wrongdoing?

### ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

If God is love (1 John 4:8), how can God be wrathful towards our sin? If God is love, why did he allow his Son to die a horrific death upon the cross? If God is love, why doesn’t he just allow everyone to go to heaven regardless of whether they have repented of their sin and embraced Jesus as Savior?