

Quitting Christianity Part 2: "You Give Love a Bad Name"

December 10, 2023 Pastor Chris Jung

"He said, 'Teacher, which of God's Laws is the most important rule for us to obey?' Jesus replied to him, 'You should love the Lord your God completely: Love him with all your mind. Love him with all that you are. Love him in all that you think. This is the greatest rule and the most important of all God's Laws. The second rule is also important, like the first one. You should love other people as much as you love yourself. All God's Laws that Moses gave us come from these two rules. All the things that the prophets wrote also come from them."

Matthew 22:36-40 (EASY)

"I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named

you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father. You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and <u>put you in the world to bear fruit</u>, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. <u>But remember the root command: Love one another</u>."

John 15:9-15 (MSG)

BY LOVING WHO JESUS LOVED, I WILL BE...

1.	TO FOR
	WHO HE REALLY IS.
	"My friends, we should all <u>love each other</u> . It is <u>God who makes us able</u> to love other people. Everyone who loves other people has become a child of God. That person knows God. <u>Anyone who does not love other people does not know God</u> . We know this because God's own nature is
	love." 1 John 4:7-8 (EASY)
2.	TO BE WITH THOSE

"Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other <u>disreputable sinners</u>. (There were <u>many people of this kind among Jesus' followers</u>.) But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, 'Why does he eat with such scum?' When Jesus heard this, he told them 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. <u>I</u>

TO BE WITH.

have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Mark 2:15-17 (NLT)

"In the same way, I tell you there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes his heart and life, than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to change."

Luke 15:7 (NCV)

"You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that."

Matthew 5:43-47 (MSG)

"Jesus: 'Let the first stone be thrown by the one among you who has not sinned.' Once again Jesus bent down to the ground and resumed writing with His finger. The Pharisees who heard Him stood still for a few moments and then began to leave slowly, one by one, beginning with the older men. Eventually only Jesus and the woman remained, and Jesus looked up. Jesus: 'Dear woman, where is everyone? Are we alone? Did no one step forward to condemn you?' Woman Caught in Adultery: 'Lord, no one has condemned me.'

Jesus: 'Well, I do not condemn you either; all I ask is that you go and from now on avoid the sins that plague you."

John 8:7-11 (TVB)

"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and <u>died for us sinners</u>. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But <u>God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners</u>."

Romans 5:6-8 (NLT)

3.	CHOSEN TO	 TO THOSE
	WHO DON'T	

"Father, you always do what is right. The world's people do not know you, but I know you. These disciples know that you have sent me. I have shown them what you are like. And I will continue to show them what you are like. Then they will love other people, in the same way that you love me. And I myself will be in them."

John 17:25-26 (EASY)

"So I give you a <u>new command</u>: <u>Love each</u> <u>other</u> deeply and fully. Remember the ways that I have loved you, and <u>demonstrate your love for others</u> in those same ways. Everyone will know you as My followers <u>if you demonstrate your love to others</u>."

John 13:34-35 (TVB)