



*Make Love the Measure
of Spiritual Maturity*

Emotionally Healthy Discipleship 5

John 13:34-35

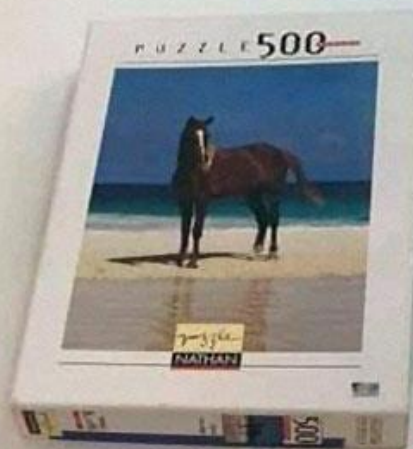
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Palos Verdes Baptist Church

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How
Airplanes
Fly



El Arroyo



**I'M SO TIRED OF
BABYSITTING
MY MOM'S
GRANDKIDS**

John 13:34-35 (ESV)

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

Love Upward

1. Receive Love Fully

- *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love.** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”*
(John 15:9-10)
- *“... you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the **breadth** and **length** and **height** and **depth**, and to know the **love of Christ** that **surpasses knowledge**, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*
(Ephesians 3:17-19)
- *“**My sheep hear my voice**, and I know them, and they follow me.”*
(John 10:27)

Love Upward

1. Receive Love Fully

2. Reflect Love Faithfully

- *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall **love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment.’” (Matthew 22:36-38)*
- *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that **bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:4-5)*

Love Inward

1. Devoted to One Another

- “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)
- “And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love** and good works, not neglecting to **meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Love Inward

1. Devoted to One Another

2. Loving One Another

- “The supreme mark of the life of Jesus Christ within the Christian is, of course, love. Love that accepts others as they are. Love that is tenderhearted and forgiving. Love that seeks to heal misunderstandings, divisions, and broken relationships.” (Ray Stedman, Body Life)

Love Inward

1. Devoted to One Another

2. Loving One Another

- Honor One Another

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

- Serve One Another

“... through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13)

- Forgive One Another

“... forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (Colossians 3:13)

Love Outward

1. Be Salt and Light

- “You are the **salt of the earth**, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the **light of the world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 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 5:13-16)

Love Outward

1. Be Salt and Light

2. BLESS

- **B—Begin with prayer**

“God, how do you want me to bless the people in the places you’ve sent me?”

- **L—Listen**

Don’t talk, but listen to people, their struggles and their pains.

- **E—Eat**

Have a meal or cup of coffee with people. It builds relationships.

- **S—Serve**

If you listen & eat with them, they will tell you how to love them & you’ll know how to serve them.

- **S—Story**

When the time is right, share the story of how Jesus changed your life.

Love Outward

1. Be Salt and Light

2. BLESS

3. Break from “I-It” to “I-Thou” Relationships

I-It Relationship

- Distracted, goal-oriented
- Others are objects or extensions of oneself.
- Judgmental, conditional acceptance
- Monologue, debate, make my point
- Withhold myself, limited sharing
- Closed, unwilling to learn or change

I-Thou Relationship

Fully attentive, listening-oriented
Others are persons, unique and separate.
Nonjudgmental, radical acceptance
Dialogue, exploration, curiosity
Offer myself, vulnerable self-disclosure
Open, willing to learn and change

(Peter Scazzero, Emotionally Healthy Discipleship p.141)

Make Love the Measure of Spiritual Maturity

1. Love Upward
2. Love Inward
3. Love Outward



Discussion Questions

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, evaluate yourself on your love (upward, inward, and outward). Why that number?
2. Share about how you think you can increase that number and grow in one of those areas?
3. What are some ways you see God demonstrating His love toward you? How can you demonstrate more love toward Him?
4. Which of the “one another” aspects of love do you sense God wanting you to focus on?
5. How do you think the BLESS strategy would work in your situation? Is there someone for whom your group can pray?