

LOVE IN ALL DIRECTIONS

March 9, 2025 • Craig Rees

BIG IDEA:

Love goes in all directions, not just forward.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

2 Corinthians 5:14–15

Mark 3:31–35

Luke 10:25–37

Matthew 28:19–20

Acts 1:8

Acts 8:1

2 Corinthians 9:12–13

James 2:15–16

Romans 13:8

Galatians 3:28

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.** Paul says that “Christ’s love compels us.” What do you think it means for love to compel someone? How should this influence the way we love others in our daily lives?

2. In the sermon, you heard that love does not move outward in ordered steps but in all directions. Why do you think we are naturally drawn to sequential thinking when it comes to love and responsibility? How does this impact the way we engage with people outside our immediate circles?

3. **Read Mark 3:31-35.** Jesus expanded the definition of family beyond biological ties. How does this challenge the way we think about love, obligation, and community?

4. The parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37 shows love moving sideways. Jesus shifted the focus from “Who is my neighbor?” to “Who acted like a neighbor?” How does this change the way we define who we are responsible to love?

5. **Read Matthew 28:19-20.** Jesus commanded His disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations.” If love followed a strict priority order, how might this commission have been different? What does this tell us about the nature of Christian mission?

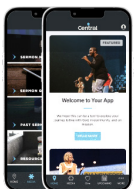
6. In the sermon, you heard that love does not wait for completion before expansion. **Read Acts 1:8 and 8:1.** How do these verses balance the idea that we must fully finish ministry in one place before moving to the next?

7. **Read 2 Corinthians 9:12-13.** Paul praises the church for their generosity beyond their immediate community. How does this passage challenge the belief that we should always prioritize those closest to us before giving outward?

8. The sermon talked about the difference between carnal love (rooted in fear and nostalgia) and Christlike love (caritas). How have you seen fear and nostalgia shape the way people—including yourself—think about love, mission, and generosity?

9. **Read Romans 13:8.** How does Paul’s statement about love being an ongoing debt shape the way we think about our responsibility to others? How does this counter the idea that we can “complete” love and move on?

10. **Read Galatians 3:28.** How does this passage speak to the idea of a hierarchy of love based on identity, proximity, or category? What would it look like for us to embody this kind of love in our relationships and communities today?



Get the weekly sermon questions on the **Central Holland App!**