

Principle #4: You can't give away what you don't possess

If you don't like yourself, you will never be able to _____ others.

The Great Commandment:

³⁷ 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." ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

Matthew 22:37-39

Affirmation _____ a lot like love, but it is not. Affirmation is based on:

- What you do
- How you look
- What you accomplish

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Two commands:

1. "Mimic" God

Ephesians 5:1
Ephesians 4:32

2. Walk in love just as Christ did

Ephesians 5:2

How do you mimic God and walk in love?

"As beloved children"

Ephesians 5:1

Until I find my significance, security, and value from my relationship with Jesus, every relationship will be a dysfunctional attempt to get _____ and _____ from others through my performance, manipulation, looks, barter, or deceit.

Practice:

Loving others demands that you learn to know, accept, and feel God's unconditional love for you.

1. Know:

- God loves you apart from your performance Romans 5:8

2. Accept:

- You are fearfully and wonderfully made Psalm 139
- You are valuable 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

3. Feel:

- Pray – and ask God to make His love real in your heart.
- Worship – through praise and song to feel His love for you. Zephaniah 3:17

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between affirmation and love?
2. According to Ephesians 4:32, what are some ways you can “mimic” God?
3. How can believing that you are loved by God change the way you love others?
4. Loving others demands that you learn to know, accept, and feel God’s unconditional love for you. Which of these do you struggle with the most? Ask God to help you know, accept, and feel His love.