

Like

Part 2: It's Not in Me

INTRODUCTION

We're spending the next few weeks discussing the question, "What is God like?" One way for us to get a better picture of God is to observe the life, teaching, and example of Jesus. Following Jesus, for starters, requires us to love, and to love radically. He prompts us to look at the world—a world full of problems, brokenness, and suffering—and ask, "What does *love* require of me? What does *life* require of me?" And what if love, and life, require more than we have to give?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When have you felt overwhelmed by a problem, event, or change in your life? What did you do? Why do you think you did that? What did you learn from that situation?
2. Talk about a time when someone loved you even though you didn't deserve it. How did that experience influence your life and faith?
3. Clay made the statement that following Jesus won't lead you to a **better** you; he'll lead you to a **different** you. When you think about yourself growing as a person, what are some things that you imagine changing? In the past, what has prevented you from changing them?
4. *Read John 15:5-7.* Is it difficult for you to believe that you can "do nothing" apart from Jesus? What is it like doing life apart from Jesus? What is it like doing life with Jesus?
5. Is there a small ambition you need to give up in order to grow and change by remaining in Jesus? If so, what obstacles stand in the way? Why do you think that small ambition come to mind?
6. What is one practical thing you can do this week to intentionally invest in your relationship with God? How can this group support you? What is one thing you can stop doing this week to strengthen your relationship with God?

MOVING FORWARD

Can love require more of you than you have to give? Yes . . . if you try to rely on your own strength, courage, and goodness. But if you remain in Jesus, you'll have everything you need to love abundantly. Remaining in Jesus will determine your desire and ability to do what love requires of you.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

-John 15:5

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

-Galatians 5:22-23

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

-Ephesians 3:17-19