

S O N R I S E C H U R C H

I Am a Church Member Series

Loved and Treasured: The Heart of Church Membership

Luke 17:11–19 • 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 • 1 John 4:7–16 • Romans 6:23 • Isaiah 53:5–6

Key Thoughts

- 1. Love is not a secondhand emotion—it is the nature of God Himself.** First John 4:8 declares “God is love.” Because believers possess the Holy Spirit, we carry the very source of agape love and are empowered to give it.
- 2. Agape loves without guarantee of return.** Jesus healed ten lepers knowing nine would walk away. Love does not love for results; love loves because love is love—regardless of indifference, ingratitude, or aggression.
- 3. Love is a verb, not just a noun.** James 2:15–17 reminds us that words of comfort without tangible action are dead. Biblical love meets physical needs to open the door to the greater spiritual need.
- 4. You are treasured beyond imagination.** God paid the highest price conceivable—the blood of His own Son—not because we were impressive, but because He wanted relationship with us.
- 5. Loved people love people; treasured people treasure Christ.** Receiving God’s love is the engine for extending it. When we grasp how treasured we are, we can freely treasure others and trust God with our time, talents, and resources.

Discussion Questions

- 1.** Read 1 John 4:7–8, 16. What does it mean that “God is love”? How does possessing the Holy Spirit change our capacity to love others?

- 2.** In Luke 17:11–19, Jesus healed all ten lepers but only one returned. What does Jesus’ response reveal about how agape love operates—even when it’s met with indifference?

- 3.** Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–8. Which characteristic of love is hardest for you to live out right now? Why?

- 4.** James 2:15–17 says faith without works is dead. In what practical ways can our Life Group (or you yourself) move love from a feeling to an action this week?

5. Pastor Chris said the sin debt we owe is infinite—only God could pay it. Read Hebrews 9:22 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does understanding the cost deepen your sense of being treasured?
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6. Personal: Where in your life have you stopped loving someone because they didn't respond the way you hoped? What would it look like to love that person the way Jesus loved the nine lepers who never came back?
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Applications

1. **Pray for your neighbors by name.** Write down two or three names of neighbors, coworkers, or family members who don't know Christ. Pray daily this week for an open door to speak truth and show love.
2. **Activate love in action.** Identify one tangible need around you—a meal, an encouraging text, a visit, a financial gift—and meet it within seven days. Don't wait for the feeling; let obedience lead.
3. **Trust God with your treasure.** Evaluate how you're stewarding your time, talent, and treasure (aka finances). Take one step of generosity this week that requires trust—give, serve, or invest in someone else's growth.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for loving us before we ever loved You. Thank You that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us—not because we were worthy, but because You declared us worthy. Forgive us for the times we have withheld love because we feared rejection, and for the moments we forgot how deeply we are treasured. Fill us again with Your Holy Spirit so that agape love flows through us—not for results, but because You are love and You live in us. Move us to action this week: to pray for the lost by name, to meet a need in front of us, and to trust You with what You've given us. Remind every person here that they are priceless to You. Now send us out as loved people who love people. In Jesus' name, amen.
