

Jesus Followers

The background features several large, overlapping organic shapes. On the left, a dark red shape curves upwards. In the center, a dark brown shape overlaps with a teal shape on the right. Below these, a lighter brown shape curves across the bottom. The overall composition is abstract and layered.

Jesus Followers

God is Love,
so it's all about

Having the Mind of Christ

Eight Axioms to Cultivate a Robust Faith

Ben Sternke and Matt Tebbe



1. God is always present and at work.



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- 2. God is just like Jesus.**



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- 2. God is just like Jesus.**
- 3. God meets us in our messy reality**



- 1. God is always present and at work.**
- 2. God is just like Jesus.**
- 3. God meets us in our messy reality**
- 4. God cares more about all of that than we do**



5. God does the same work through us and in us.



- 5. God does the same work through us and in us**
- 6. God's love always reckons with power.**



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- 7. God transforms us through embodied participation.**



- 5. God does the same work through us and in us.**
- 6. God's love always reckons with power.**
- 7. God transforms us through embodied participation.**
- 8. God is love, so it is all about love.**



“Communion in Love (with God and others) is not something we achieve...”

- Ben Sternke and Matt Tebbe



Is Love Enough?

**What kind of love do we imagine
that wouldn't tell the truth?**



God is Love, so it's all about LOVE!

1. Love is the principle on which all the law and the prophets hang (Matthew 22:34-40)



³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”



Matthew 22:34-40

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”



Matthew 22:34-40

God is Love, so it's all about LOVE!

1. Love is the principle on which all the law and the prophets hang (Matthew 22:34-40)
2. Love summarizes the entire law (Galatians 5:14)



¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”



Galatians 5:14

God is Love, so it's all about LOVE!

1. Love is the principle on which all the law and the prophets hang (Matthew 22:34-40)
2. Love summarizes the entire law (Galatians 5:14)
3. Love fulfills the entire law (Romans 13:8-10)



⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,”



Romans 13:8-10

and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.



Romans 13:8-10

God is Love, so it's all about LOVE!

4. Love is the goal of all instruction and training
(1 Timothy 1:5)



⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.



1 Timothy 1:5

God is Love, so it's all about LOVE!

4. Love is the goal of all instruction and training (1 Timothy 1:5)
5. Love is how faith works itself out, and the only thing that counts (Galatians 5:6)



⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.



Galatians 5:6

God is Love, so it's all about LOVE!

6. Love is how we know we've passed from death to life (1 John 3:14)



¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.



1 John 3:14

God is Love, so it's all about LOVE!

6. Love is how we know we've passed from death to life (1 John 3:14)
7. Love is the way we are filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19)



¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



Ephesians 3:19

God is Love, so it's all about LOVE!

8. Love is who God is, and our love is evidence we are becoming more like God (1 John 4:8)



⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.



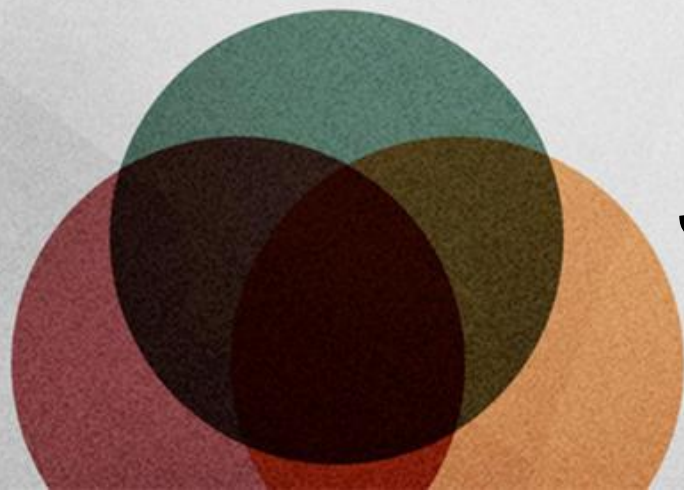
1 John 4:8

God is Love, so it's all about LOVE!

- 8. Love is who God is, and our love is evidence we are becoming more like God (1 John 4:8)
- 9. Love is the way others will know we are disciples of Jesus (John 13:35)



³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”



John 13:35

**Are Christians a good
expression of God's love?**

What is L O V E?



¹If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.



1 Corinthians 13

³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.



1 Corinthians 13

⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.



1 Corinthians 13

⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.



1 Corinthians 13

L O V E and T R U T H

1. Do you believe that love is enough?



L O V E and T R U T H

1. Do you believe that love is enough?
2. Can you think of a time where you lived in love enough to tell the truth in a posture of love?



L O V E and T R U T H

3. Do you experience love-in-communion with God and others?



L O V E and T R U T H

4. What is one step you can take to experience more love from a posture of receiving and expressing as opposed to achieving?



Good news?

1. Is believing that God is always present and at work good news for you?



Good news?

1. Is believing that God is always present and at work good news for you?
2. Is the fact that God is just like Jesus good news to you?



Good news?

3. Is the fact that God meets us in our messy reality good news to you?



Good news?

3. Is the fact that God meets us in our messy reality good news to you?
4. Is the truth that God cares more about all of it than we do good news?



Good news?

5. When God does the same work through us and in us, is that good news to you?



Good news?

5. When God does the same work through us and in us, is that good news to you?
6. When God's love reckons with power, is that good news?



Good news?

7. Is God's transformation through embodied participation (by actively doing what he invites us to) good news for you?



Good news?

8. God is love, so it's all about love. Is that good news to you?



