



MOMENTUM

What's Love Got to Do with It?

#npmomentum

Week 2

2 of 4

January 14, 2018

Bottom Line: Life is better in circles, not rows.

Icebreaker: If you could go on vacation anywhere, where would you go? Outside of a spouse, who is one person you would like to go with you, and why?

Key Verse: *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* John 13:34-36

Jesus talked a lot about love, even more so as He approached His last days. He was commanding those who followed Him to lead a new life characterized by a different kind of love than the world had ever before experienced. Human love is conditional, personally beneficial, and circumstantial. The kind of love Jesus demonstrated to His disciples and commanded them to show is unconditional, sacrificial, and continual. It is a decision of the head, a choice of the will, not a feeling or emotion of the heart.

This kind of love is so foreign that when it is displayed it is compelling and transformative. It is only possible for a person who has received that kind of love from God and is convinced there is no one in the world God loves more than me. As long as we have something to prove, lose, or hide, we are unavailable to love and be loved like that. This is vital, because the strength of our relationships with others depend on the strength of our relationship with God. A real relationship with God begins with accepting our identity in Christ at a heart level. We sustain ourselves by engaging in the practices that keep us connected to Him, and find our significance by allowing God's grace to flow through us to others. His love and grace motivate us to loving action toward others.

God created us to know and be known, to love and be loved. It starts with accepting His love for us, and growing in our love for Him and others. He wants to take us from the relationally shallow waters of life into the depths of relationship with Him and others. This kind of love is the reason we were created.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on the weekend message, what most spoke to your personal needs?

How is this command in John 13:34-36 (to love another person as Someone else has loved me) greater than the Golden Rule?

Jesus says, "Let go of your complaints, forgive those who loved you poorly, step over your feelings of being rejected, and have the courage to trust that you won't fall into an abyss of nothingness but into the safe embrace of a God whose love will heal all your wounds." — Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Here and Now: Living in the Spirit*

How are you experiencing that?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

Discuss:

- Jesus didn't command His disciples to feel something, He commanded them to do something.
- How is the *command* to love "strange and remarkable"?
- Love is the proof of a regenerate heart.
- It may seem impossible to FEEL love for someone, but it is always possible to ACT in love.
- Most of us have a very hard time drawing a circle as big as God does. Why?
- If we are not willing to work on our personal relationships, our relationship with God is not healthy and will not grow.

How would accepting and living like God's love is unconditional and all-inclusive affect your self-acceptance? Your attitude toward others?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Are you in a small group yet? If not, when will you be?
2. What are the benefits of a small group that you have personally experienced? How might you use those to encourage someone else to attend a group?

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Life is better in circles, not rows..

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Acts 2:46-48

Day 2: Hebrews 10:24-25

Day 3: John 13:34-35

Day 4: 1 John 4:7-8; John 12:32

Day 5: Romans 5:8; 2 Peter 3:9

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)