



- How Deep is Your Love?



- Very beautiful vineyard: healthy, vibrant, fruitful



- Reaction when you see that vineyard later: dry, dying
- Obvious neglect
- Feel sad.



- Beauty of the vineyard: but not on it's own
 - Really beautiful when it is properly cared for
 - Distinguishes between wild
 - Glory of vineyard seen when properly cared for and fruitful



- God created Garden in Eden (Gen. 2:8, 15)
 - Gave: heat, rain, sun, soil
 - Gardener only “encourages a little here, discourages a little there”
 - Garden is beautiful because
 - of what God provides
 - and what gardener gives of himself to the garden.



- Isaiah 5:1-7
 - Israel is God's vineyard
- Church too?



2 Peter 1:5-7

Characteristics are like a garden

Must have love...



The gardner: gives the true glory to each characteristic.

For example: self-control is good (even without love)

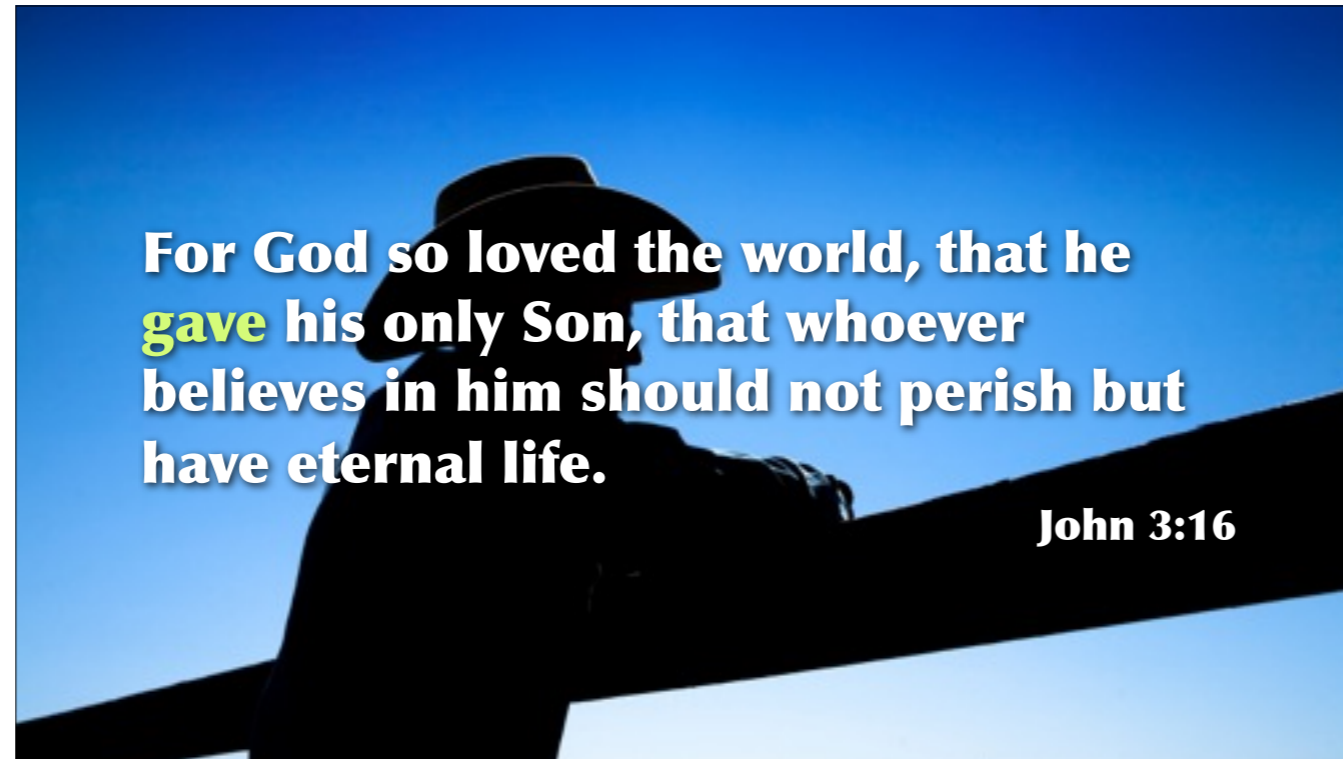
But when love is present: beauty and glory of self-control truly real.



- 1 John 4:19: We love because he first loved us.
 - We would not know love, or understand love, if God had not so clearly demonstrated to us what love really is.



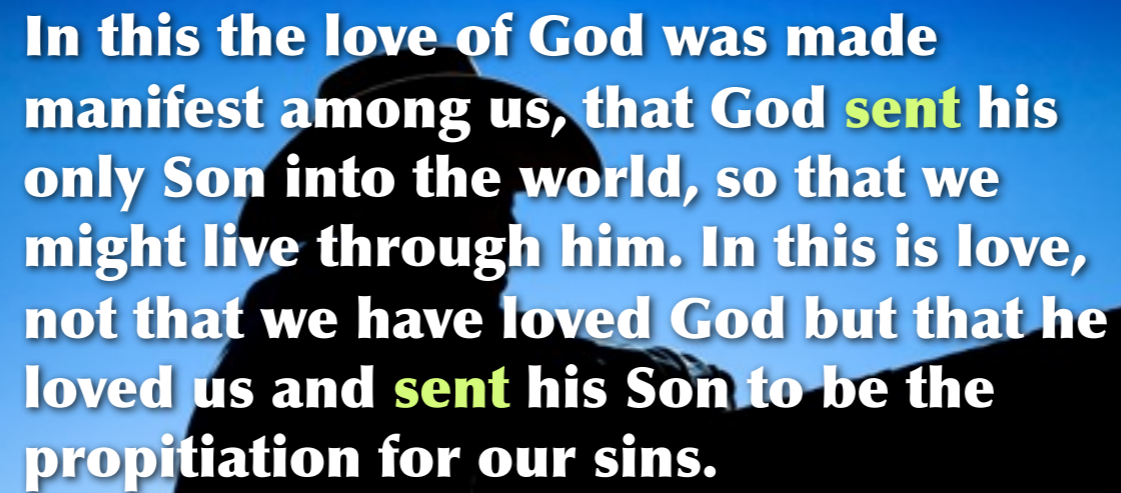
- 1 John 4:8: God is love.
 - We cannot approach love in the same degree as our Father.
 - He is pure love
 - We have “additives” (sin, etc.)



**For God so loved the world, that he
gave his only Son, that whoever
believes in him should not perish but
have eternal life.**

John 3:16

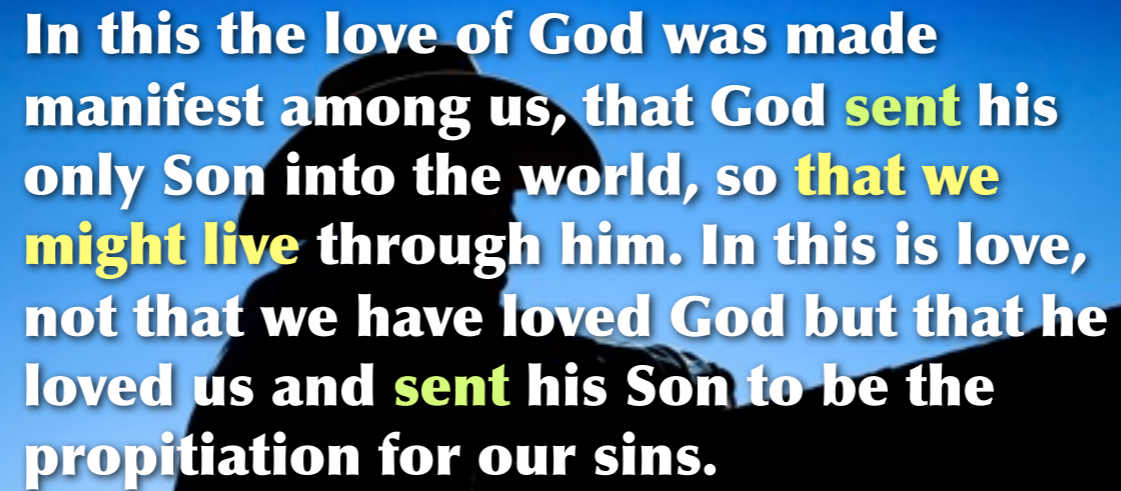
- John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that he **gave** his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God **sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and **sent** his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

1 John 4:9-10

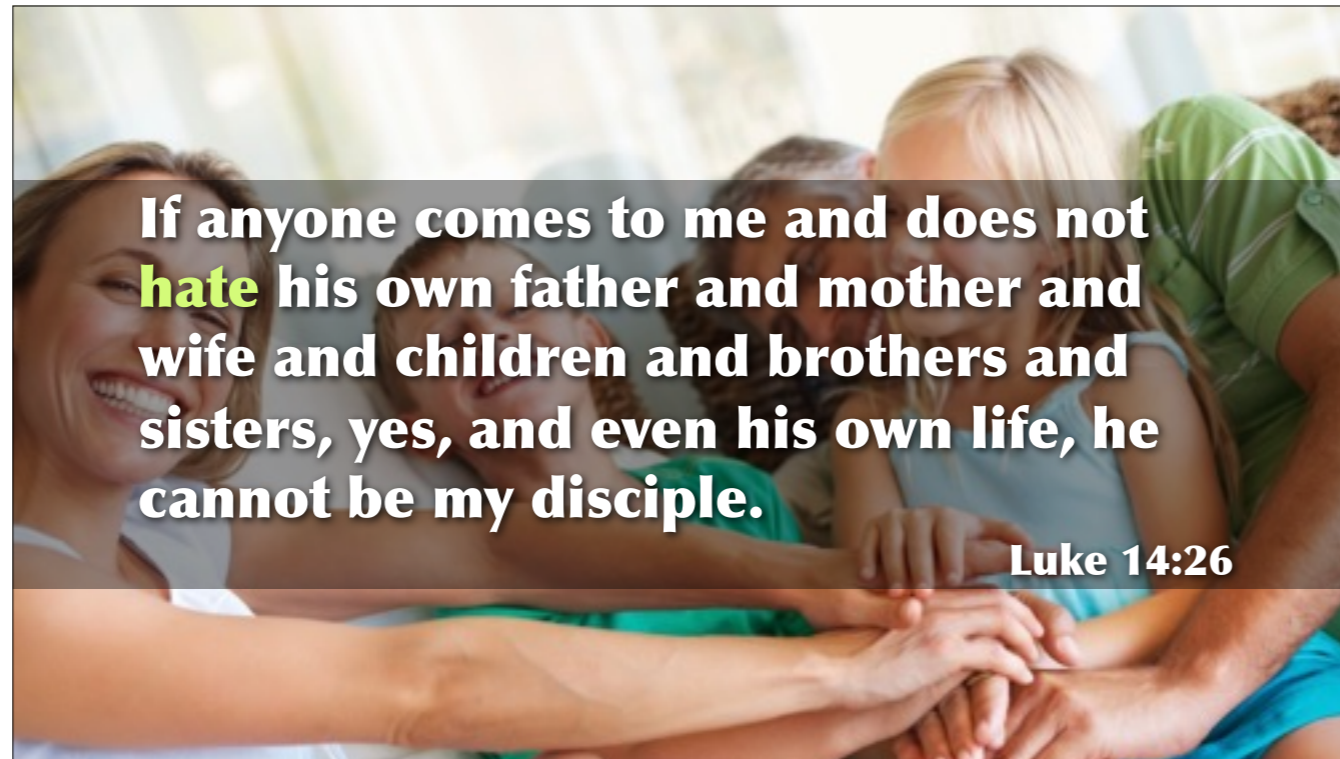
- 1 John 4:9-10: In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God **sent** his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and **sent** his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God **sent his only Son into the world, so **that we might live** through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and **sent** his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

1 John 4:9-10

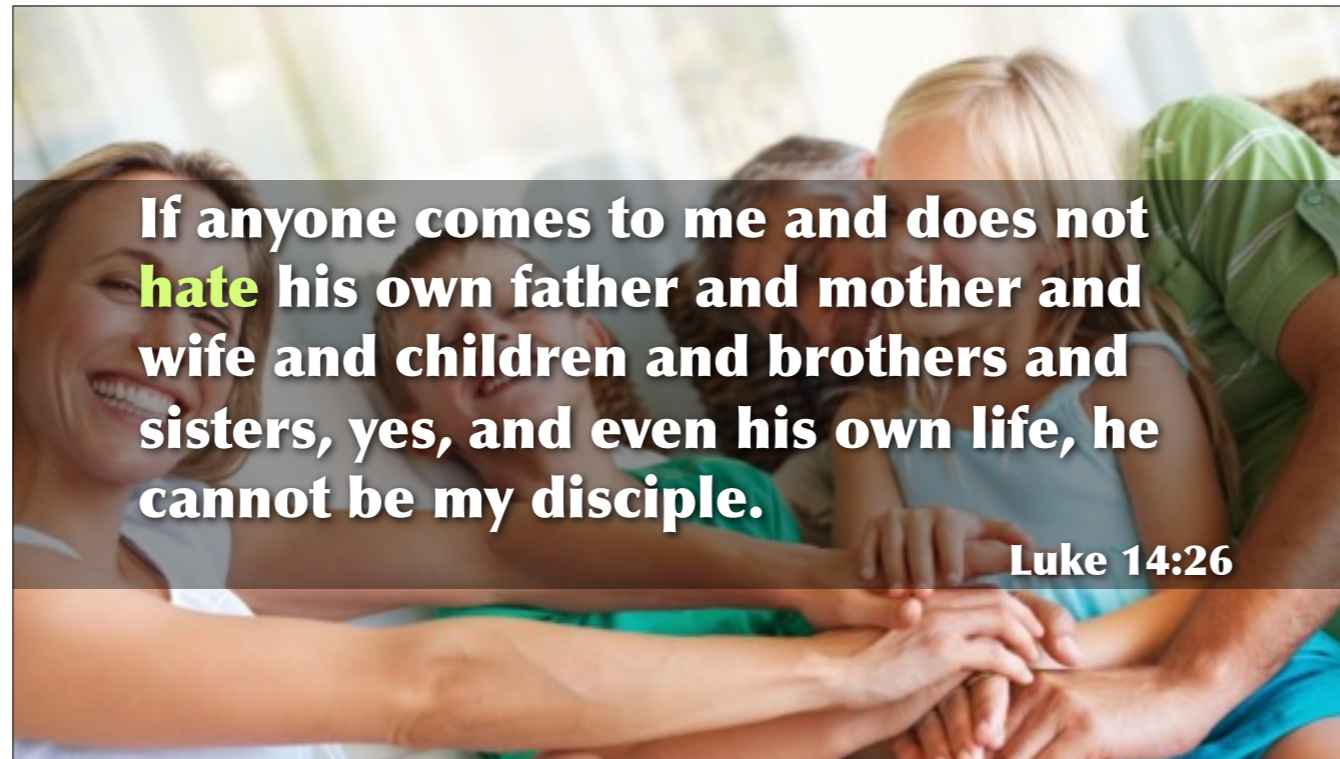
- Why? — “that we might live”
- His thoughts were not for himself, but for us
- What is love about?
 - giving for others
 - seeking the betterment of others
 - no thoughts to “my cost”
 - no thoughts as to the “worth” of the loved one
- 1 Corinthians 13:5: It does not insist on its own way (seeks not its own)



If anyone comes to me and does not **hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.**

Luke 14:26

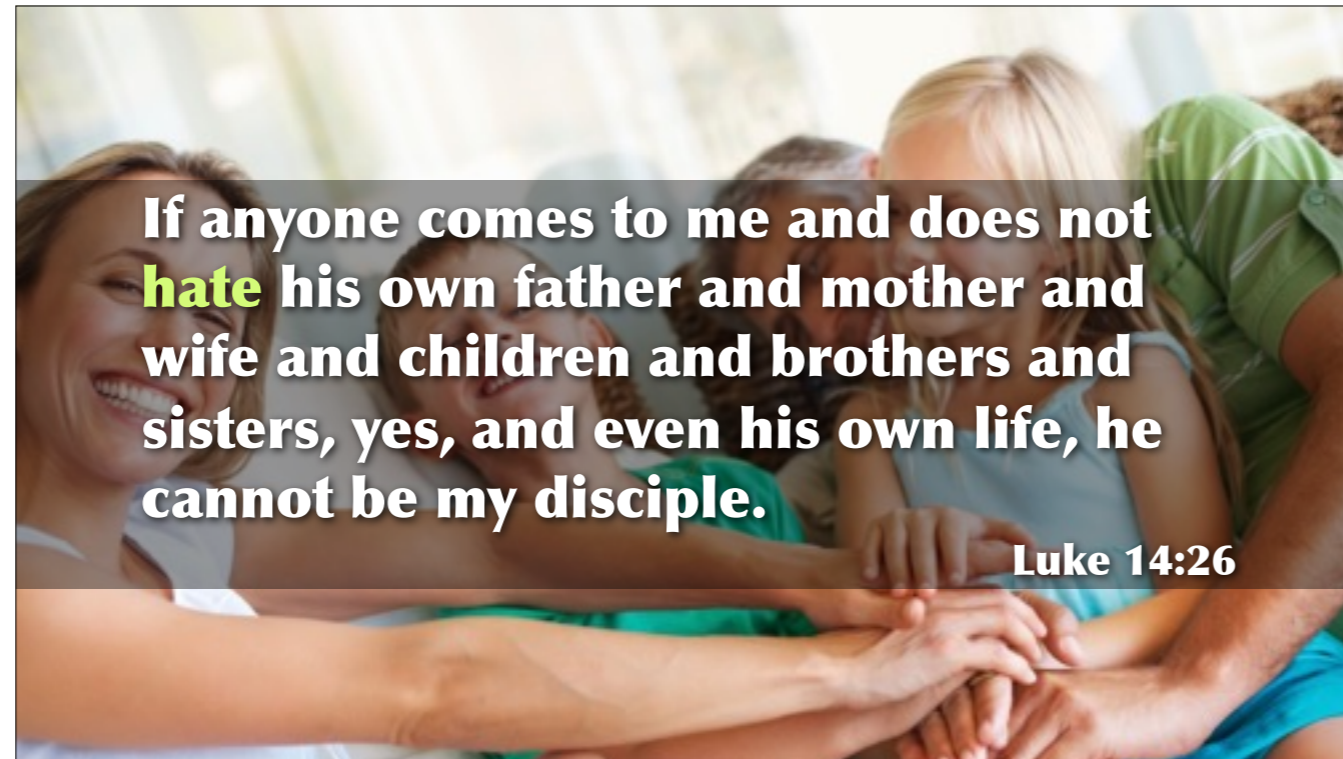
- Luke 14:26: If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.



If anyone comes to me and does not **hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.**

Luke 14:26

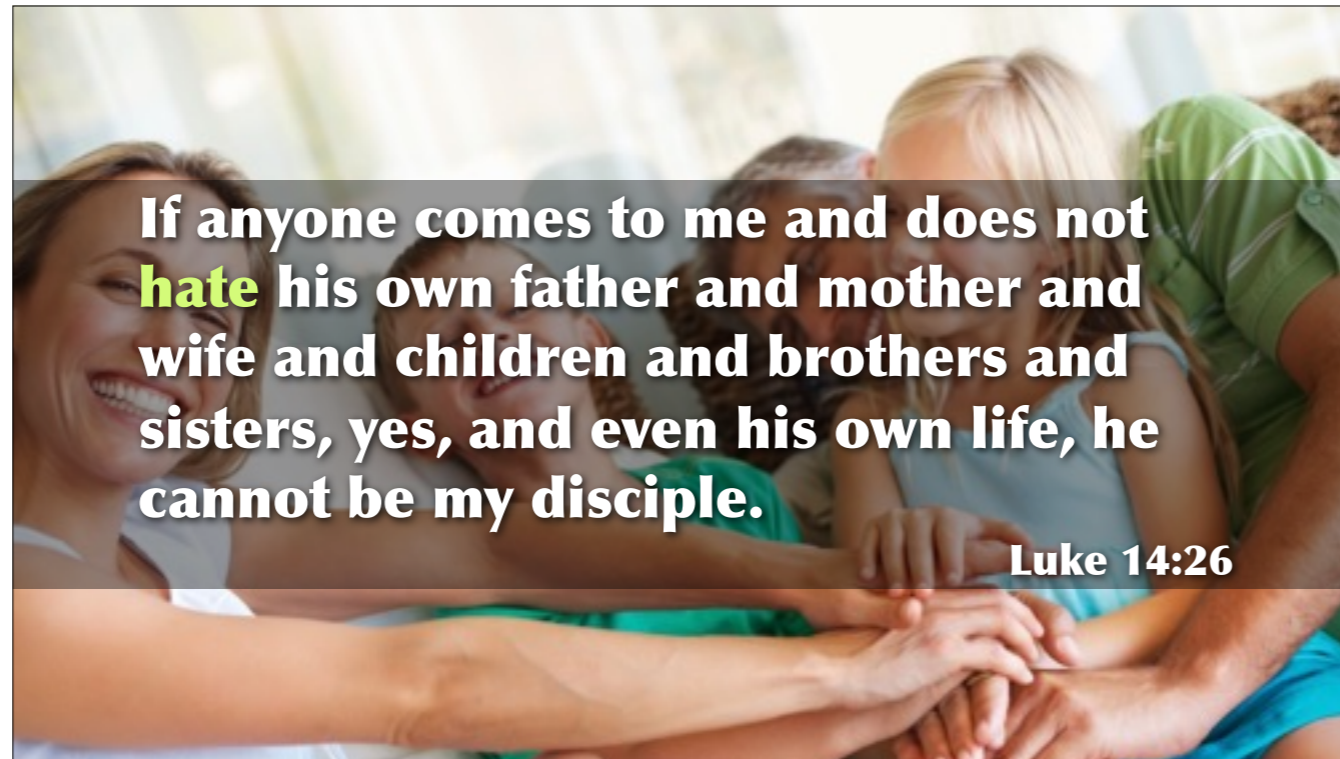
- Love (that is Jesus) is teaching us to hate???
- What does He mean to hate?
 - Hate father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, own life
 - I cannot be a disciple (follower) of Jesus without HATE???



If anyone comes to me and does not **hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.**

Luke 14:26

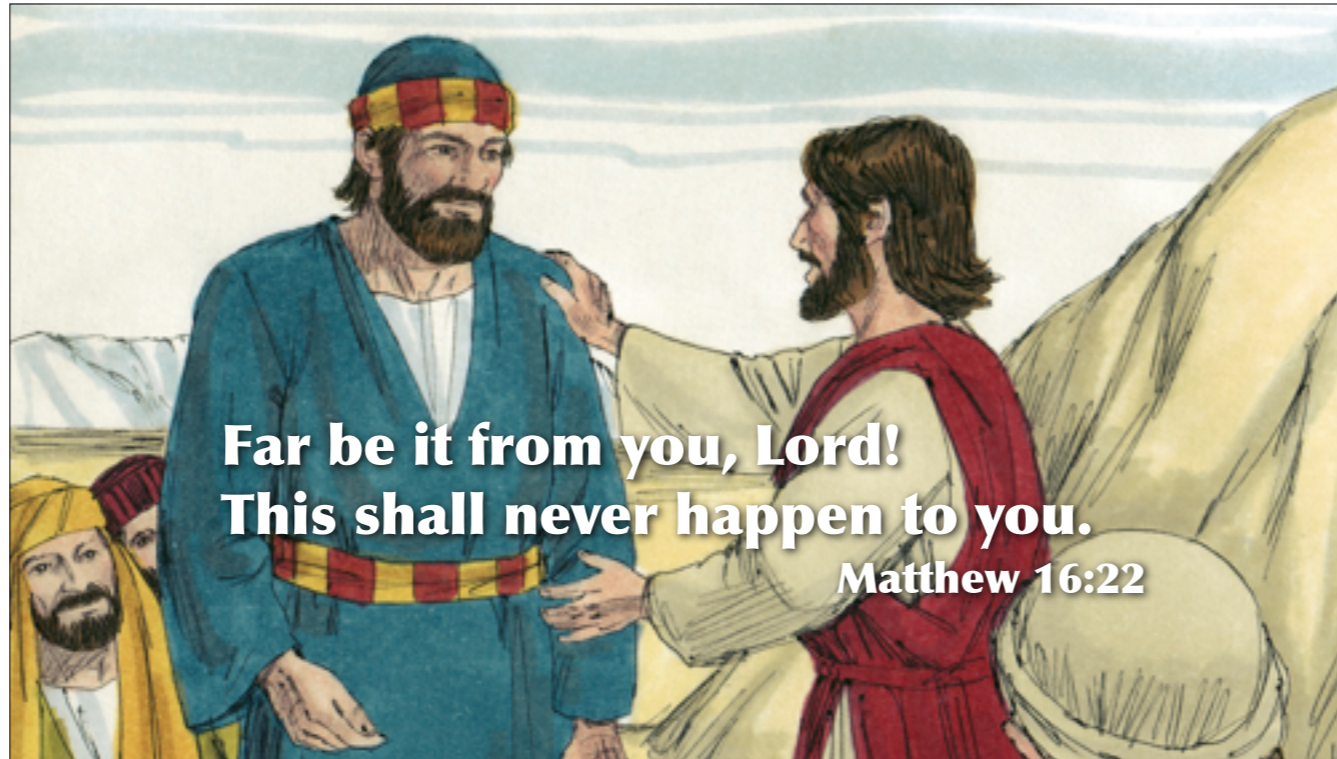
- What we mean by hate...
 - wish evil or injury
 - gloat over another's misery
 - cherish a resentment
- Consider the example of Jesus and Peter: Mt. 16:21-23



If anyone comes to me and does not **hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.**

Luke 14:26

- Peter has made his great confession that Jesus is the Christ.
- Jesus reply's "blessed are you"
- Jesus begins talking about going to Jerusalem to suffer many things and be killed



**Far be it from you, Lord!
This shall never happen to you.**
Matthew 16:22

- Matthew 16:22: And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.”



- Matthew 16:23: But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan!”



- Matthew 16:23: You are a hindrance to me.



Get behind me, Satan!
Matthew 16:23

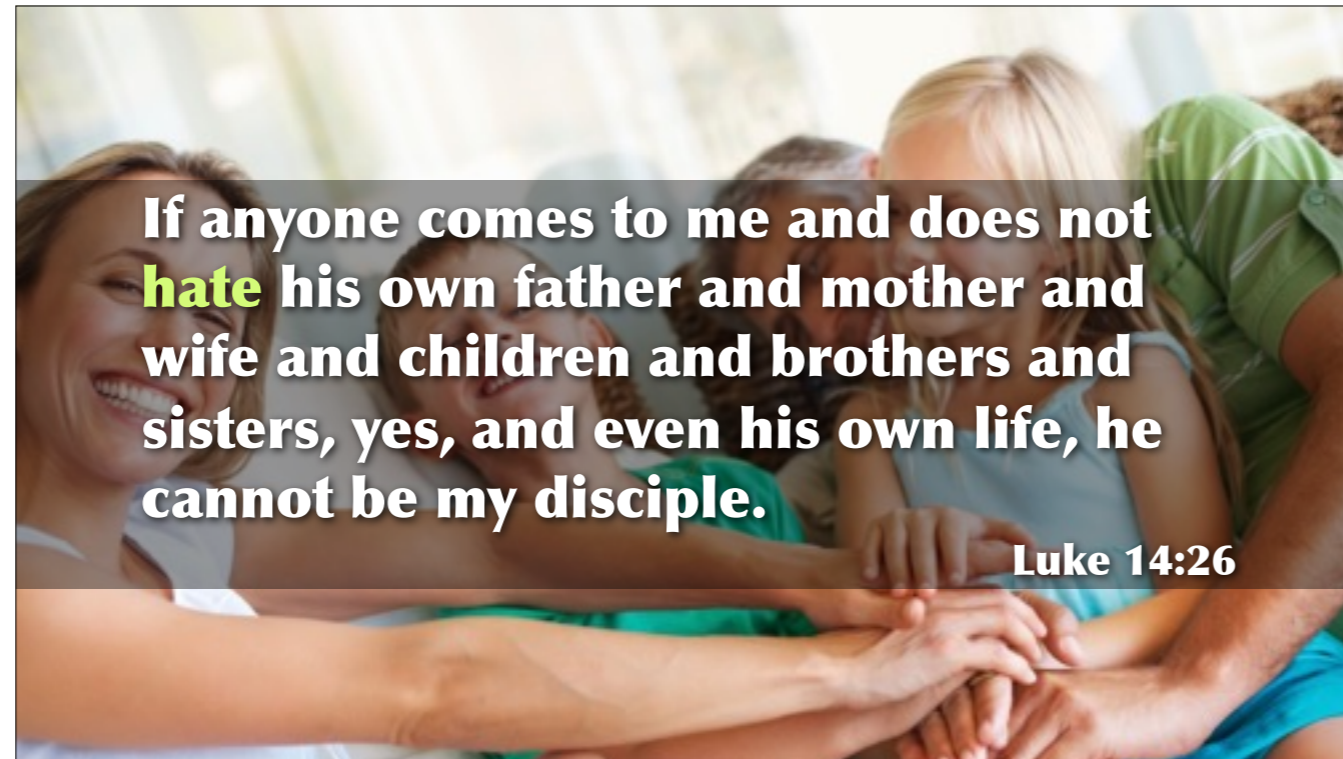
- Matthew 16:23: For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.



- What did Peter do to receive such a harsh rebuke?
 - Jesus' own disciple
 - Believes that Jesus is the Christ!
- Yet Jesus indicates that Peter's rebuke is opposed to the will of God
 - Actually encouraging Jesus to DISOBEY His Father!



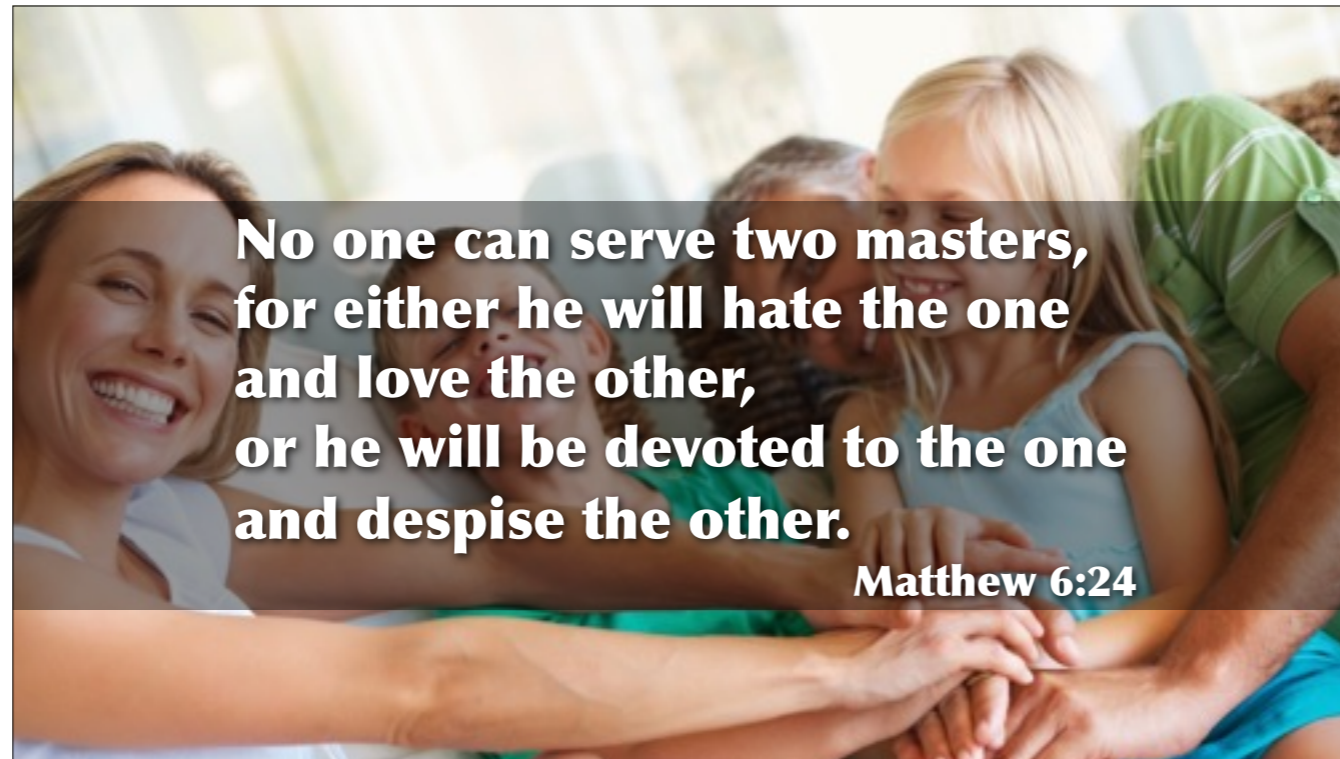
- So Jesus rejects not just the suggestion, but Peter
- To hate is to reject anyone (no matter how close we are; how beloved)
 - who, regardless of their motive, or how sweetly, or kindly
 - utters the suggestions of Satan
 - We will not give in to their desires!



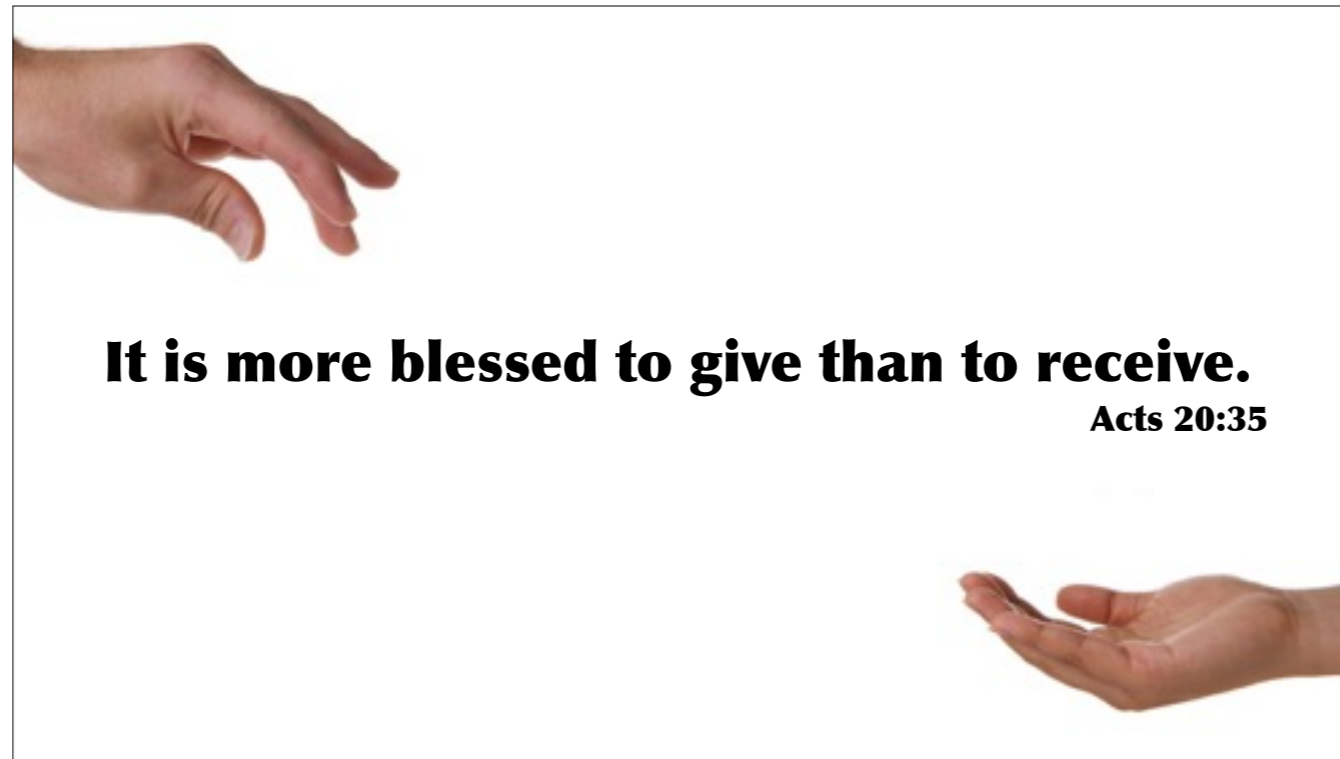
If anyone comes to me and does not **hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.**

Luke 14:26

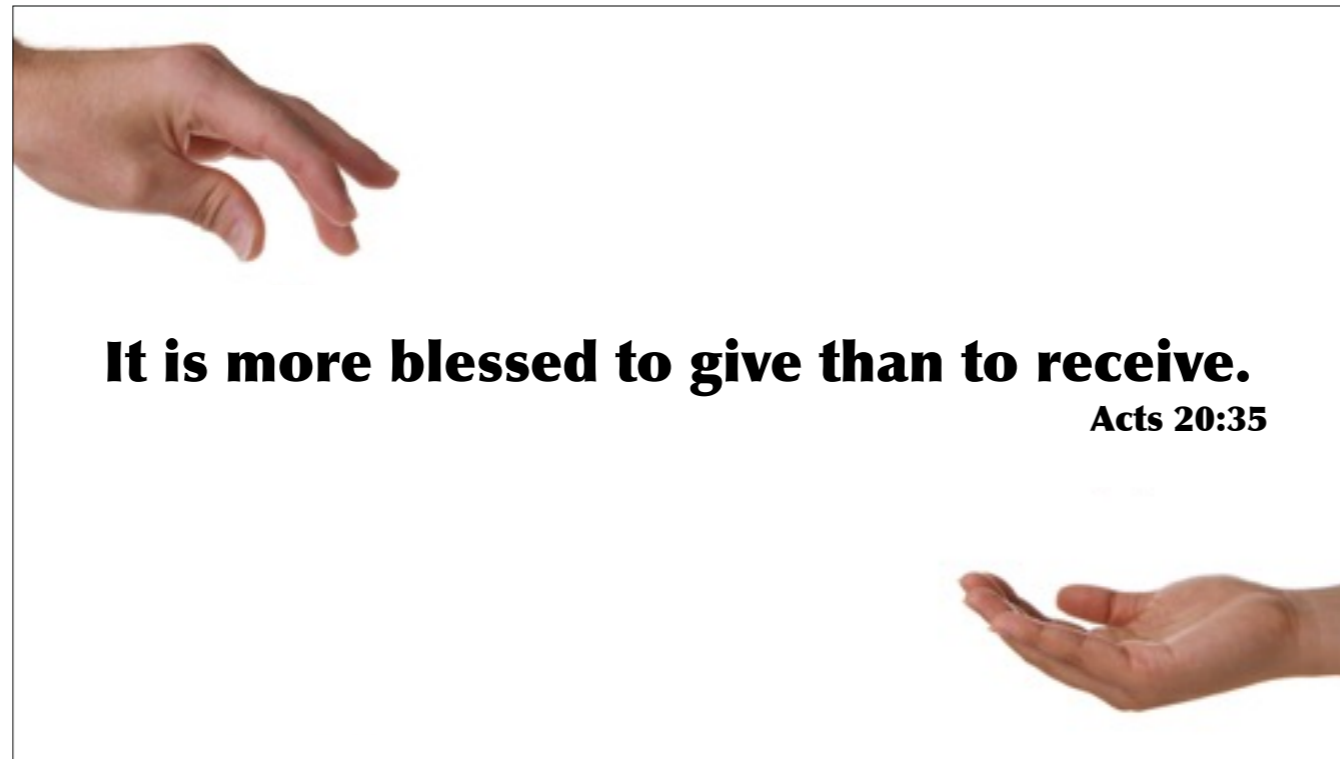
- So it is for us with our relationships.
 - If one we love tries to get us to be disobedient to our God
 - We will not give in to their desires!



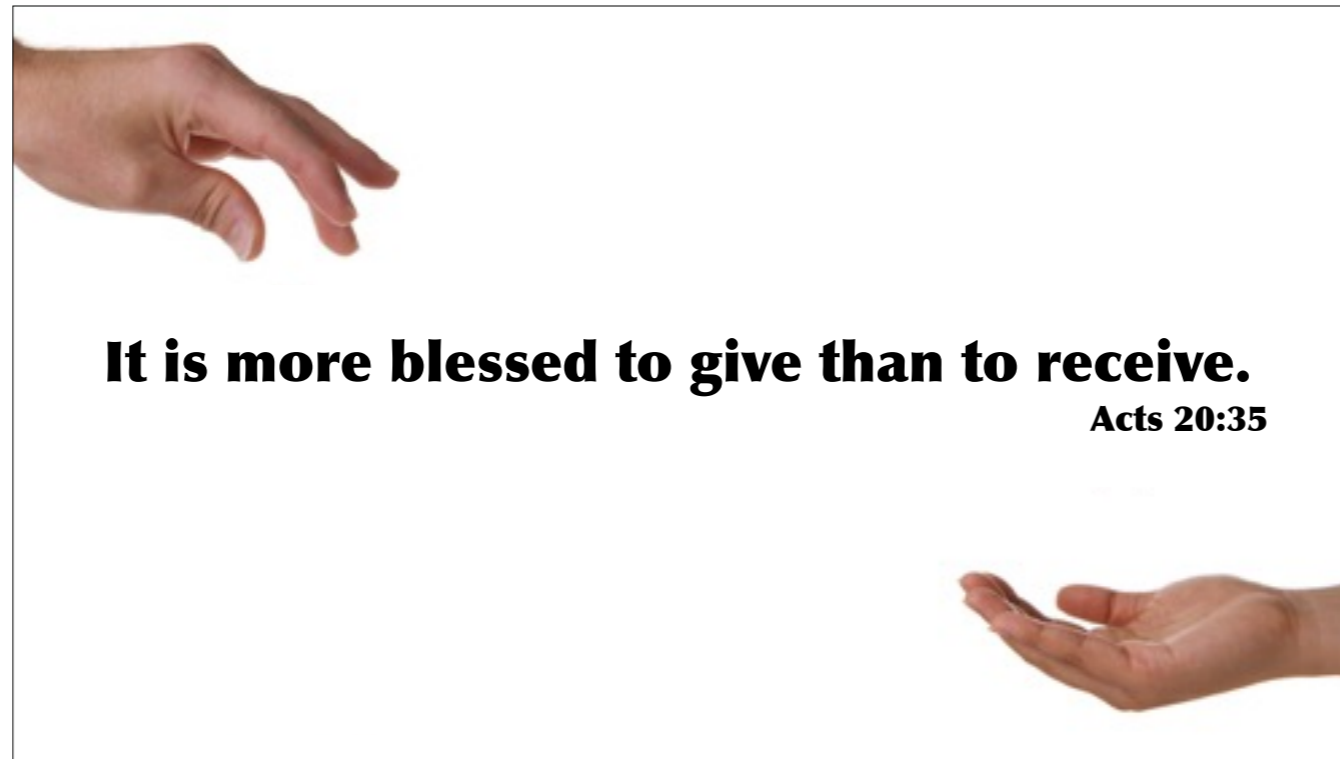
- Matthew 6:24: No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.
 - Choose God and it requires that some things must be turned away from
 - Our reverence and obedience must go only to our real Master.



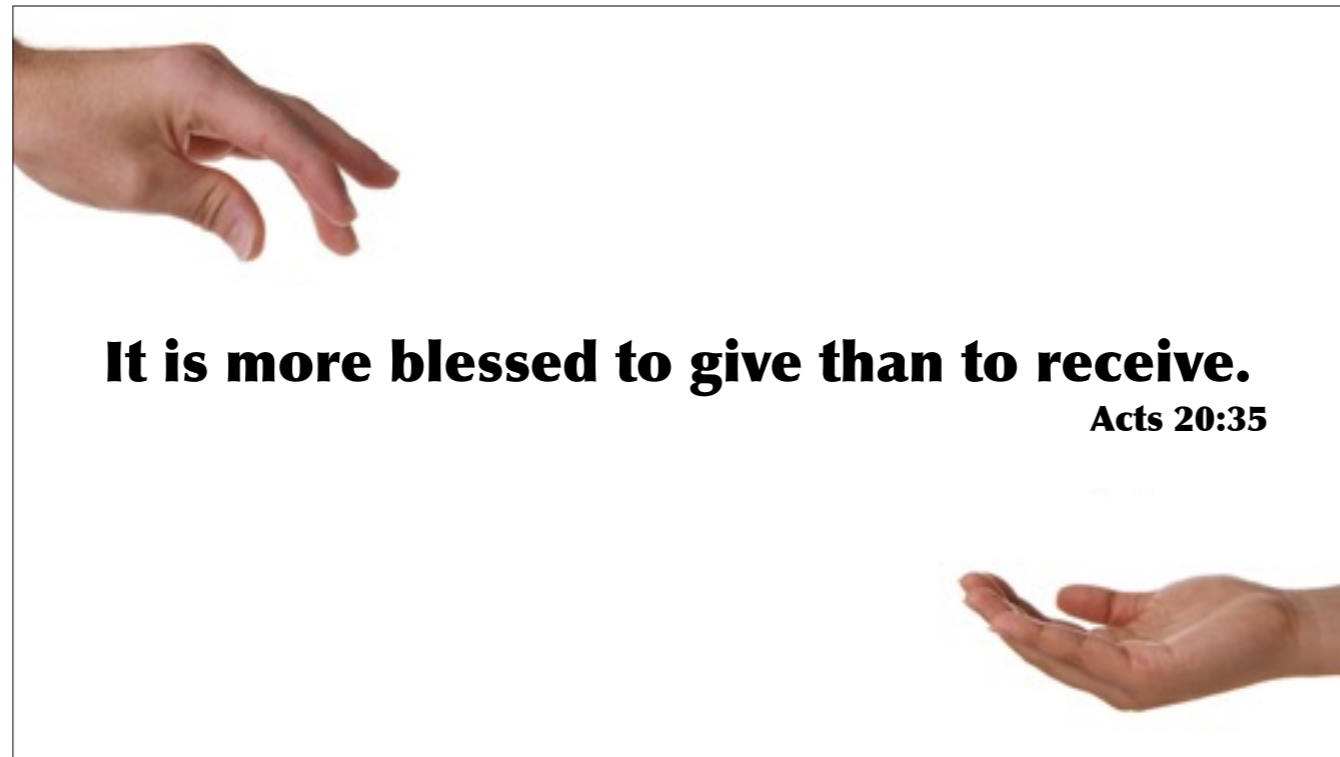
- Acts 20:35: In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. '



- Of course, this is Paul's admonition to help those who are struggling.
- Usually only hear when speaking of money... deeper principle



- We all need to receive
 - That's why the gardner willingly gives so much time and effort to the garden: beauty and fruit
 - Often hear in marriage conflicts: "I'm always giving, I never receive!"



- MORE blessed!
 - more like our Father, and God
 - better for the one who receives...
 - better for the giver...
 - Garden and gardner: both give, both receive; both accept.



- 1 John 4:19: We love because he first loved us.
- What does it mean to love?
 - Giving for benefit of the beloved.
 - Usually think we have this down for the “easier” things
 - showing kindness, helpfulness
 - forgiving

**God shows his love for us in that while
we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Romans 5:8

**We love because
He first loved us.**

1 John 4:19

- Salvation in spite of our rebellion
 - Romans 5:8: but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**God shows his love for us in that while
we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Romans 5:8

**We love because
He first loved us.**

1 John 4:19

- God loved us when we were “hard” to love.
 - We rejected Him, hated, enemies.
 - Yet He still gave sacrificially for me... completely.
- Love is not just when it’s easy.... especially important when it’s difficult.

**For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.**

Hebrews 12:6

**We love because
He first loved us.**

1 John 4:19

- Discipline
 - Hebrews 12:6: For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.
 - Even as His children, we sometimes struggle in our faith ...

**For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.**

Hebrews 12:6

**We love because
He first loved us.**

1 John 4:19

- These saints were losing their faith, their confidence, their hope in Jesus
- And they were suffering: hostility and persecution.
 - Endure!
- Hebrews 12:12-13: Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

**For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.**

Hebrews 12:6

**We love because
He first loved us.**

1 John 4:19

- Discipline
 - True love also does the hard things about love.
 - Discipline is often necessary.
 - In garden: pruning, cutting: actually helps growth
- How can we really help each other when we are struggling
 - Admonish
 - Say necessary for edification
 - challenge each other to grow, continue in faith



- 1 John 4:19: We love because he first loved us.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20



123rf.com: 9673438

Photo Credits:

All photos from istockphoto.com, crestock.com, bigstock.com, dreamtime.com, thinkstock.com, and shutterstock.com are copyright protected. They are used by permission. Please do not reuse without permission.)

Sun silhouette: iStock_00000278165

Cowboy: iStock_00004506643

Family: iStock_000017507571

Jesus and Peter: http://distantshores.org/images/rg/40/40_Mt_16_04_RG.jpg

How Deep Is Your Love?

2 Peter 1:7

Synopsis: The final quality we are to add to our faith is love. We know love because of God's love, but what does that really mean.

"Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved."

"Let all that you do be done with love."