

A group of diverse young children are hugging and laughing in a park. The children are of various ethnicities and are dressed in casual clothing. The background is a blurred park setting with trees and a playground. The text "Uncomfortable Love" is overlaid in large, red, sans-serif font. An orange arrow points to the right, partially overlapping the text and the children.

# Uncomfortable Love

Chris Wilson

## Matthew 22:37-39

- 37 Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.
- 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.





So.....

What is Love?





So.....

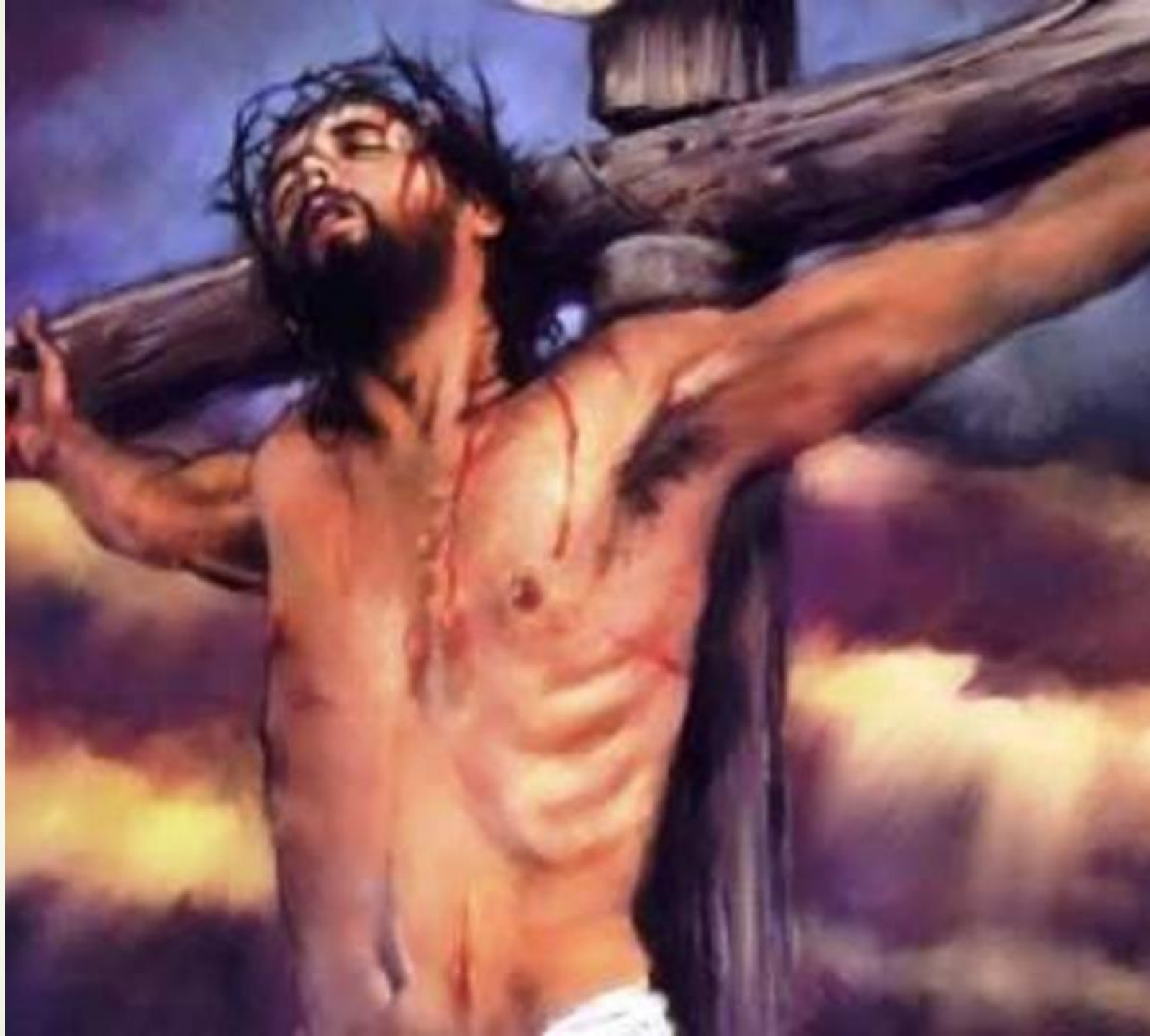
What is Love?

- ▶ Love with all your heart - An emotion?
- ▶ With all your soul – commitment to love?
- ▶ With all your mind – decision to love?



# Characteristics of Love

- ▶ Mercy/Grace
- ▶ Kindness
- ▶ Slow to take offence
  - ▶ Sees the bigger picture
- ▶ Forgiveness
- ▶ Patient / Longsuffering
- ▶ Encouraging
- ▶ Humble
- ▶ Authentic / real
- ▶ Disciplined
- ▶ Submits to one another



# The importance of Love!

- 1If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, **but didn't love others, I would be nothing.** 3If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; **but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.**
- **4Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.....**
- **13Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.**
- 1Corinthians 13 :1-7,13

Who do we have to love?





# Luke 6:27-36 – Love your enemies

- ▶ “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, **love your enemies!** **Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.** If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you.
- ▶ “If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.
- ▶ “**Love your enemies! Do good to them.** Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.





What does love  
look like now?



# Consequence of love

- Unity
- Peace
- Trust
- Joy
- Healing
- Purpose
- Growth and maturity
- Become more attractive



# What love is not?

- Harsh
- Judgmental
- Proud/arrogant/boastful
- Gate keepers
  - Exclusive – keep people out
- Gossipy







## John 13: 34-35

- So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."



# Love requires

- ▶ The decision to Love
- ▶ Commitment to love
- ▶ Courage to love






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# Blessing



➡ **Jude 24** To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.