

PLENTY TOO MUCH LOVE LESSON 3
HOW TO LET GOD'S PTM LOVE OVERCOME THE HURT AND HATE IN US AND
IN THE WORLD AROUND US

6/7/2020

Memory Verse:

"Never let evil defeat you, but defeat evil with good." Rom. 12:21 (TPT)

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Rom. 12:21 (NIV)

I. Main Ideas

1. God's love is great enough to heal every wound and break the power of all hate *in us and through us*.
2. When we let God break our heart with compassion, He moves through our lives with miracles.
3. For good to overcome evil and love to overcome hate, it must take some form of action.

A list of ways to make love real and practical from Romans 12:10-21

- Be honest and sincere.
- Hate evil-cling or fight for what is good.
- Joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
- Practice hospitality, treating other believers like your family.
- Help people with their needs.
- Bless those who curse you.
- Empathize- Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
- Choose to live in harmony and be a peacemaker.
- Don't be proud or think of yourself as better; honor those whom the world would give a lower status.
- Keep the laws.
- Don't take revenge.
- Show love to those who treat you as enemies.

Questions for Application and Discussion

1. Have you ever felt unjustly hated, judged, or reacted to, in a way that made you feel "less than?" What did that feel like?
2. How does thinking of what Jesus went through on the cross and how He loves you and forgives you help to heal that?
3. Have you ever noticed how fear can lead to hate, prejudice, and division? Have you ever let fear make you feel threatened, jealous, self-protective, over-reactive, or a reason to stereotype or put a negative label on people different than you? How could knowing and

being confident in God's plenty too much love for you lower the source of your fear and help you be more compassionate and kinder?

4. What can you learn from how David and Joseph were able to rise above the evil treatment they received from people who should've been nice to them (Saul/Brothers)? What do you think is the key to becoming someone who is "unoffendable?"
5. Which of the following lies stand out as something you need to especially reject and which truths stand out as truths you need to especially embrace to let love win over hate in your heart?

Lies

- If I don't retaliate it proves I'm a weak person.
- If I shame and insult people that will help them want to change.
- I have a right to hate because I'm an innocent person.
- I can't help but resent them; they ruined my life and made me to feel inferior and have a bad life.
- If I drink the rat poison of hate and unforgiveness, the rat will suffer.

Truths

- If I forgive and respond in love God will vindicate me.
 - I don't have to keep being triggered; I can be transformed by God's power in this suffering.
 - There is nothing any human being can do that can stop God's ability to bless my life and guarantee that He is going to prosper me and give me a hope and a future.
 - God is able to pour out His love in my heart in unlimited ways that is greater than the power of the hurt I feel.
 - God will give me wisdom and the ability to respond with grace in a way that brings the possibility of conviction and repentance to them and peace and freedom to me.
 - Good will overcome evil eventually, love will overcome hate, and truth will overcome lies.
6. Which of the tools listed above from Romans 12:10-21 do you especially need to claim, to move you forward in a path of reconciliation and restoration in a relationship struggle you are facing?
 7. What might the Lord want you to do to sow a seed that will move our nation forward in the journey towards healing the wounds of racial and/or social injustice in our country?