

# RESOLVED TO LOVE

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## I. WHY BE RESOLVED TO LOVE?

### 1. WITHOUT LOVE, \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>1</sup> If 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. <sup>2</sup> If 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. <sup>3</sup> If 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.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

### 2. UNTIL I GET A “REASONABLE HANDLE” ON GOD’S LOVE, \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>14</sup> When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, <sup>15</sup> the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. <sup>16</sup> I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. <sup>17</sup> Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. <sup>18</sup> And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. <sup>19</sup> May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” Ephesians 3:14-19*

### 3. LOVE IS THE \_\_\_\_\_ BEHIND MY \_\_\_\_\_ GOD & HIS WORD

*“<sup>3</sup> And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. <sup>4</sup> If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. <sup>5</sup> But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. <sup>6</sup> Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” 1 John 3-6*

### 4. LOVE IS THE \_\_\_\_\_ GOD’S COMMANDMENTS

*“<sup>36</sup> Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:36-40*

## II. HOW CAN I LOVE DIFFERENTLY IN 2026?

### 1. RESOLVE TO LOVE \_\_\_\_\_

#### WHY? Like Joy, Love Is Also \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” Colossians 3:14-15*

#### HOW? Commit Daily To Follow \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.’” Matthew 16:24*

*“<sup>37</sup> ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. “ Matthew 22:37-38*

*“<sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:12-13*

## **2. RESOLVE TO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE \_\_\_\_\_**

### **WHY? Though Love Drives Obedience, Sustained Obedience \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>9</sup> I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!” John 15:9-11*

### **HOW? Strip Off The Distractors & \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us <sup>2</sup> We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith” Hebrews 12:1-2*

## **3. RESOLVE TO FOLLOW THE \_\_\_\_\_**

### **WHY? Like Joy, The Holy Spirit’s Job Is \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>22</sup> But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23*

### **HOW? Maintain A Constant State of \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>16</sup> So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves... <sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.” Galatians 5:16 & 25*

### **KEY: Much Of This Growth Will Occur In The Context Of \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>10</sup> For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10*

## **4. RESOLVE TO \_\_\_\_\_ GOD REGULARLY**

*“<sup>17</sup>And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love. <sup>18</sup>And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is.” Ephesians 3:17-18*

### **WHY? Because Love \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>But anyone who does not love does not know God--for God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8*

### **HOW? Since Christianity Is A Relationship With God, \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>1</sup> We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. <sup>2</sup> This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. <sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.” 1 John 1:1-3*

<sup>20</sup> “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.” Revelation 3:20

**REGULARLY:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_

**5. RESOLVE TO PRESS INTO DEEP RELATIONSHIPS WITH \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHY? The Church Is A \_\_\_\_\_ For Learning To Love Others**

<sup>11</sup> Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. <sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. <sup>15</sup> Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. <sup>16</sup> He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:11-16

**HOW? Faithfully Connect With My Church Family \_\_\_\_\_**

<sup>25</sup> And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25

**6. RESOLVED TO \_\_\_\_\_ LOVE**

**WHY? Because \_\_\_\_\_**

**HOW? Practice Loving Those In \_\_\_\_\_ With \_\_\_\_\_**

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” 1 John 3:18

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. <sup>31</sup> “By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. <sup>32</sup> A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. <sup>34</sup> Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’ <sup>36</sup> “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. <sup>37</sup> The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.” Luke 10:30-37

**KEY: This Will Take Great \_\_\_\_\_**

**7. RESOLVE TO KEEP \_\_\_\_\_**

<sup>11</sup> so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.” 2 Corinthians 2:11

**WHY? The Enemy Often Attempts To \_\_\_\_\_ In Order To \_\_\_\_\_**

**He Attempts To:**

**i. Weaken \_\_\_\_\_**

**ii. Divide \_\_\_\_\_**

**iii. Keep Me From Being \_\_\_\_\_**

**HOW? \_\_\_\_\_ & Don't Remove \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>8</sup> Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8*

*“<sup>10</sup> A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:10-12*

**8. RESOLVE TO AVOID ALL \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>1</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? <sup>2</sup> For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting<sup>[b]</sup> dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. <sup>3</sup> If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, “You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor”—well, <sup>4</sup> doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?” James 2:1-4*

**WHY? Picking & Choosing Thwarts My Growth By \_\_\_\_\_**

**HOW? Make The Most Of \_\_\_\_\_ To Love**

*“<sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:16-17*

**9. RESOLVE TO QUICKLY FORGIVE \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHY? Love & Bitterness Don't \_\_\_\_\_ In The Same Heart**

**HOW? Consider \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>33</sup> When they came to a place called The Skull,<sup>[c]</sup> they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.” Luke 23:33-34*

*“<sup>14</sup> If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:14-15*

**10. RESOLVE TO ELIMINATE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, MY \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHY? If I Love “Stuff” Too Much, It Will \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>26</sup> If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:26*

*“<sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.” Matthew 6:24*

**HOW? Actively Build \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>19</sup> Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” Matthew 6:19-21*

*“<sup>26</sup> Some people are always greedy for more, but the godly love to give!” Proverbs 21:26*