



Last week we learned that **love** is the **commitment** of an imperfect person **to honor** a **perfect God**. Can you find **1 John 4** again in your Bible? Let's read **1 John 4:11** together:

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also \_\_\_\_\_  
to love one another.

God is our Creator. He can tell us what is right and true and good. He can tell us what we **ought** to do. And he **HAS**...

"If you \_\_\_\_\_ in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

But what does this have to do with **love**?

For this is the love of God, that we \_\_\_\_\_ his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)

And this is love, that we \_\_\_\_\_ according to his commandments... (2 John 6)

"If you \_\_\_\_\_ me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15)

God **loves** us, and because he loves us, he always tells us the **truth**—about himself and about ourselves. But sometimes, the truth about what we need, or where we ought to do better, or what we're doing wrong is hard to hear.

Sadly, a lot of people have the wrong idea. They think that if you "love" me, you'll never tell me something that's hard for me to hear, or ask something of me that will be hard for me to give, or hurt my feelings, or tell me I need to do better. But listen carefully to **Mark 10:17-22**.

Because God **loves** me, he **tells** me the **truth**. Truth teaches, reproves, corrects, and trains (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God expects me to learn the truth, know the truth, walk in truth, tell the truth, and abide in the truth because only the truth can set me free (John 8:32).



# FOUNDATION STONES

We heard Mr. Jason say that a lot of people have the wrong idea about love. Love **DOESN'T**



mean you'll never hurt my feelings, or you'll never ask me to do the right thing even when I don't really want to, or you'll never tell me I need to do better. Let's think about that... why is it **NOT** really love for a parent, or grandparent, or teacher to just tell me what I want to hear and let me do whatever I want all the time?

Can you think of any examples from the Old Testament or the New Testament where people were told things they may not have wanted to hear, but they were told anyway **BECAUSE** they were loved?

Can you find **Ephesians 4:15** in your Bible? This is what we're **ALL** being called to do and be. Listen carefully to this verse and fill in these really important blanks:

“Rather, speaking the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_,  
we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...”

Keep your Bible open there to **Ephesians 4** and let's do a little bit of searching together.

- 📌 According to **Ephesians 4:21**, where is the truth? What does that mean?
- 📌 According to **Ephesians 4:25**, what are we to speak to our neighbors? What does that mean?
- 📌 According to **Ephesians 5:1-2**, what are we to walk in? Why? What does that mean?