

02 • Love Abides in & Tells the Truth

Last week we learned that **love** is the **commitment** of an imperfect person **to honor** a perfect God. Let's go back to **1 John 4:11**:

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

Our Creator has defined truth and expressed his expectations for us.

"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**)



What does this have to do with **love**?

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

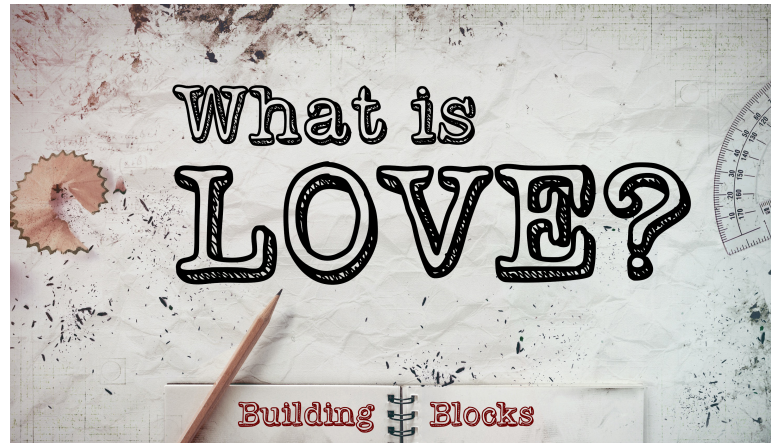
And this is love, that we _____ according to his commandments... (**2 John 6**)

"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 our needs, shortcomings, potential, and transgressions is hard to hear.

Sadly, a lot of people have the mistaken idea 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 cost a great deal, or hurt my feelings, or tell me I'm falling short. But listen carefully to **Mark 10:17-22**.

Because God **loves** me, he **tells** me the **truth**. Truth teaches, reproves, corrects, and trains (**2 Tim 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**).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Does God have the right to tell me what I "ought" to do?
- How have you seen or heard people express the mistaken idea that if you "love" me, you won't...
 - Tell me something that's hard to hear?
 - Ask something of me that will cost a great deal?
 - Hurt my feelings?
 - Tell me I'm falling short?
- Can you think of examples from the Old or New Testaments where people were told really hard truths *because* they were loved?
- What balance are we being called to in **Ephesians 4:15**?
- There are some **hard** truths in **Ephesians 4:17-5:17**, but notice how Paul consistently reminds us that:
 - The truth is in Jesus (**4:21**)
 - We are to speak the truth with our neighbor (**4:25**)
 - We are to walk in love, as Christ loved us (**5:1-2**)