

SOUTH  
SHORE  
community church

GROWTH

*healthy relationships*





- How do you want to be remembered? (Tombstone; What do you do for a living?)
- Matthew 22:37-39, “Jesus replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind. This is the first & greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.’”





- The single greatest indicator that we are rightly connected to Jesus is that we love people. The spiritually mature are characterized by love above all else. They love God. They love family. They love friends. They love those far from God. They love rebels. They love wanderers. They love their enemies.



- Relational maturity begins with love. John 15:9-14, “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.





- John 15:9-14, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.”
- Let’s take a deeper look at the passage

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- **How do you love?** Jesus said, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Now remain in my love.” v.12, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”
- We love by remaining in Jesus’ love. (vine & branches; the river) (gift of tears for the broken; love for enemies)
- When love dries up, something is wrong with the connection.





- **Who do you love?** Jesus says, “My command is this: *Love each other* as I have loved you.” Jesus is telling us to love each other, but we are also told to love our families, those outside the faith, & our enemies.
- But we are people of limitations. Jesus had limits (Mark 1)



- **Who do you love?**
- The priority of loving: (1) We need to love those that we are with (e.g., restaurant – waitress) (golf course – Bill)
- (2) Invest love in those that Jesus directs you to. (Jesus – why did he invest in the 12?) (family; staff; certain people for a season)





- **What does love look like?** Jesus really raises the bar. He says, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” We are to love like Jesus loved.
- Love is characterized by sacrifice. The love of Christ is costly. (e.g, Ron)



- **What does love look like?**
- Love is characterized by honor. Romans 12:10, says “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” (Martin – Dianna)





- Is your connection to Jesus expanding your capacity to love? Who is God calling you to love these days?