

08.23.15

Almost Christianity - Part 4

1. Love was obviously the message of Jesus, and according to him, the point of what the scriptures as a whole taught. How does love create unity, sympathy, compassion, and humility? (Reference 1 Peter 3:8)
2. Peter says, "be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks for the reason of the hope they have." Why do you personally believe in the resurrection?
3. What does answering people with gentleness and respect look like? Give examples of what it does and doesn't look like.
4. Peter says in 4:8 that love covers a multitude of sins. Explain what you think this looks like in your own words.
5. Jesus loved in a way that cost his personal reputation. He didn't fear guilt by association. Explain what this may look like for the church in the 21st century.
6. Jesus recast enemies as neighbors. Who are modern day, labeled enemies of the church?
7. Why does loving someone fervently help make the truth more palatable? (Reference 1 Corinthians 13 - Clanging Cymbals)
8. In what ways have Christians typically handled being part of the dominant culture?
9. How has Jesus loved you and how does that inform how you are to love others?

1.

Almost vs. Authentic

1. Almost Christianity has a flawed perspective.
2. Almost Christianity has a flawed approach and strategy.

2.

How we behave makes what we believe more believable.

3.

Show proper **respect** to everyone, **love** the family of believers, **fear** God, **honor** the emperor.

1Peter 2:17 NIV

4.

Jesus reminds us that proving oneself right isn't as important as proving oneself loving.

5.

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, **love one another**, be compassionate and humble.

1Peter 3:8 NIV

6.

...turn from evil and **do good**;
...seek peace and pursue it.

1Peter 3:11 NIV

7.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be **prepared** to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1Peter 3:15 NIV

8.

But do this with **gentleness and respect,**

1Peter 3:15 NIV

9.

keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your **good behavior** in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1Peter 3:16 NIV

10.

The end of all things is **near...**

1Peter 4:7-8 NIV

11.

The end of all things is near...

Above all, **love** each other deeply, because **love** covers over a multitude of sins.

1Peter 4:7-8 NIV

12.

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these **two** commandments.”

Matthew 22:40 NIV

13.

So in everything, **do** to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12 NIV

14.

For God so **loved** the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV

15.

For God did not send his Son into the world to **condemn** the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:17 NIV

16.

But **love** your enemies, **do good** to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High,

Luke 6:35 NIV

17.

“A new command I give you: **Love** one another. As I have **loved** you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love** one another.”

John 13:34-35 NIV

18.

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.

John 15:12-13 NIV

19.

How Jesus Loved:

Jesus loved in such a controversial and confusing way as to appear to be the most conservative among the liberals and the most liberal among the conservatives.

20.

How Jesus Loved:

Jesus loved in a way that was harmful to His personal reputation because He didn't fear guilt by association.

21.

How Jesus Loved:

Jesus loved in such a way that tax-collectors, Samaritans, sinners, lepers, prostitutes, and unclean, who were enemies to hate, were recast as neighbors to love.

22.

How Jesus Loved:

Jesus loved without discrimination and condemnation because love changed the way he saw people.

23.

How Jesus Loved:

Jesus loved in a way that made the truth both clear and compelling.

24.

Peter
John
Paul
James

25.

*"Love them the way I have
loved you."*

Jesus

26.

313 -Milan	Xmas Eve 800
325 -Nicaea	Charles, HRE
379- Theodosius	1095- Urban 2
410 - Rome Falls	10-31-1517,
By 600 -Franks Christ.	Luther
754 - Peppin Land	1600's Puritans
Charles -Evangelism	

27.

Every time Christians have been,
or believed themselves to be, the
dominant culture — we end up
acting more like Constantine
than Jesus.

28.

When we label people it hides
the face of the neighbor we
are suppose to love.

29.

If you have a profession of faith
but don't have a practice of love,
you do not have faith.

30.