

Love without Measure

Jesus taught that the measure of love given to us will be determined by the measure of our love for others. He said:

“Be merciful just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge others . . . ; do not condemn others . . . ; forgive others, and God will forgive you. Give to others, and God will give to you. . . . The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.”

Luke 6:36–38

Married Love

Jesus taught that “from the beginning” God intended married love to be respectful and lasting. Speaking to the Pharisees, Jesus taught:

“Haven’t you read the scripture that says that in the beginning the Creator made people male and female? And God said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.’ So they are no longer two, but one. Man must not separate, then, what God has joined together.”

Matthew 19:4–6

of love

And what measure did Jesus use to measure love? Jesus explained:

“The greatest love a person can have for friends is to give one’s life for them.”

From John 15:13

By calling us to live the way of love, Jesus reveals that human beings are loving beings. The greatest power we have is the power to love. Our love for others draws us closer not only to one another but to God, who is love.

- ☞ *What do the words of Jesus in Luke 6:36–38 tell us about love?*
- ☞ *What do the words of Jesus in John 15:13 tell us about God’s love for us?*

Jesus affirmed that married love between a man and a woman is sacred. He taught that:

- marriage is a sacred relationship of equality, sharing, and love;
 - becoming “one flesh” (marriage) is a lasting not a temporary relationship;
 - a wife is a partner and not a husband’s property;
 - divorce is breaking a relationship established not only by a man and woman but by God.
- ☞ *Does the way the media portray the marriage relationship agree or disagree with what the word of God tells us? In what ways?*