

## What if...?

Colossians 3:14  
Hebrews 10:23-25

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“Many Christians mistakenly consider themselves to be loving people simply because they love their Christian friends and relatives. They love those who agree with them and remain in their circle of fellowship, but if someone disagrees with them or leaves their church, they stop loving and start attacking...Christ demands from his followers a supernatural, divine love that forgives, reconciles, and forebears – with the unlovely, with those who persecute us, hate us, with those outside our circle of church friends, with those who disagree with us, and with all people of the world.” (Alexander Strauch)

We have spent weeks studying the importance of love. How would the world be different if every follower of Jesus alive today loved people the way He loves people?

- I. What if all true believers saw love as a non-option? (1 John 4:7-21)
  - A. Love is an integral part of who God is.
  - B. Love is an integral part of what God does
  - C. Love is an integral part of why Jesus came.
  - D. Love is an integral part of who we are.
- II. What if all non-believers saw love as a confirmation?
  - A. The Creator is real
  - B. The Christ is real
  - C. The Church is real

## What if...?

- Christians were so much like Jesus that those who need Him would flock to join us at the foot of His cross? (Matthew 9:9-13)
- Christians once again became known as those who welcome sinners and eat with them – such that sinners begin to say, “I like them, and I want to be like them”. (Luke 15:1-2)
- Christians and churches became the first-place people would turn to find comfort, counsel and care when scared, confused, hurting, and burdened? (Luke 7:36-43)
- Christians became known for kind, thoughtful, enriching, challenging, and honoring conversations about God, humanity and life. (Acts 17:22-34)
- Christian marriages were so loving, respectful, enduring, and amazing that everybody wanted to know the secret? (Ephesians 5:25-33)
- Christians and churches were so welcoming and inclusive that the lonesome and isolated would find the church a life-giving alternative. (To social media, casual hookups, and bar stools.) (John 10:7-16)
- Christians became known as the bosses everyone wants to work for, the colleagues everyone wants to work alongside, and the employees everyone wants to hire? (Ephesians 6:5-9)
- Christians had the reputation for being the best friends and the best enemies who always respond with prayer, kindness, generosity, forgiveness, grace and love? (Matthew 5:43-48)