**RISE UP** in 2021

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**RISE UP and Love**

*John 3:16-17; John 15:12-17, 1 John 4:7-21,*

*1 Corinthians 13:4-8a*



This life in which we RISE UP is a life where we learn to follow Jesus by denying ourselves and taking up our cross. Last week, we learned...

When you **lose** what you cannot **keep** … you **gain** what you cannot **lose**.

The **Temple** Model

* Sacred places
* Sacred texts
* Sacred men
* Sincere followers

The **Jesus** Model

* New covenant
* New command
* New ethic
* New movement

The **Temple Model** is **you** centered.

A good question initially ... but not a good question eventually.

What must **I do** or **believe** to make things and keep things right between God and me?

Temple thinking gravitates to **rules** and **rituals**.

What **exactly** must **I do** or **believe** to make things and keep things right between God and me?

The **Jesus Model** centers on the **you** beside **you**.

*This is my commandment,* ***that you love one another*** *as I have loved you.* John 15:12

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything,* ***but only faith working through love****.* Galatians 5:6

*For the* ***whole******law*** *is fulfilled in one word: “You shall* ***love your neighbor as yourself****.”* Galatians 5:14

*Beloved,* ***let us love one another****, for* ***love*** *is from God, and whoever* ***loves*** *has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because* ***God is love****. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.* ***In this is love****, not that we have loved God but that* ***he loved us*** *and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us,* ***we also ought to love one another****. No one has ever seen God;* ***if we love one another****, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.* 1 John 4:7–12

This represents complete, 100% departure from the Temple Model.

What does love **look** like?

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.* 1 Corinthians 13:4–8

**… I’m bankrupt without love.**

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.

Love doesn’t strut,

Doesn’t have a swelled head,

Doesn’t force itself on others,

Isn’t always “me first,”

Doesn’t fly off the handle,

Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn’t revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies.

1 Corinthians 13:3b–8a (The Message)

**Do you know why you should …**

* Tell the truth?
* Be generous?
* Not talk badly about someone?

Even if it wasn’t in the B.I.B.L.E., you are smart enough to know that you can not love your neighbor as yourself and gossip, lie or be stingy.

The New Testament **imperatives** are **examples** of how to demonstrate your **love** for God by loving **others**.

The entire Old and New Testaments hang on these two things …

Love **God**. Love Your **Neighbor**.

The Jesus model is less **complicated ...** but far more **demanding**.

What does love **require** of me?

This is the essence of following Christ.

Imagine if we all lived by this question?

*“When the Son of Man comes in his* ***glory****, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his* ***glorious*** *throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.* Matthew 25:31–33

*Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘****Come, you who are blessed by my Father****, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was* ***hungry*** *and* ***you gave me food****, I was* ***thirsty*** *and* ***you gave me drink****, I was a* ***stranger*** *and* ***you welcomed me****, I was* ***naked*** *and* ***you clothed me****, I was* ***sick*** *and* ***you visited me****, I was in* ***prison*** *and* ***you came to me****.’* Matthew 25:34-36

*Then* ***the righteous*** *will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we* ***see*** *you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we* ***see*** *you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we* ***see*** *you sick or in prison and visit you?’* Matthew 25:37-39

*And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you,* ***as you did it to one*** *of the least of these my* ***brothers****, you did it to* ***me****.’* Matthew 25:40

The Jesus Model centers on the **you** beside **you**.

Your devotion to God is **illustrated**, **demonstrated**, and **authenticated** by your love for **others**!