

Volume 3, Day 3: Love Frees Us To ...

So the first question might be, “What does love **free me to do?**” How does knowing I'm loved by God free me to care about others and to help others and to be in a situation where I am not just focused on **my** comfort, but very **aware** that there's more than me in the room. How can I be a blessing to them? The second question is, “What does love **lead me to do?**” If I'm in a situation where I'm not sure what I should do, if I truly knew I was loved, what would that lead me to do in response to the other people in it with me?

That opens some great doors for us walk through. It invites us to live differently in the world. Now, what I'm talking about is not just, “Okay, I'm going to stop doing what I want and do what everybody else wants and try to please everybody around me. That's not the reality of love. I'm talking about living **in** His love. This means that I **am** loved. So I don't have to do things for other people in order to get their approval or to get God's approval. But since I am already loved fully by God, I can now turn around and love other people in a way that invites them into something greater than just human love.

See, what I think **living loved** does is, number one, it keeps us from being manipulated by others because God's love is not conditional. It's not based on what I do or don't do. Love is not doing what anybody else wants me to do for them. In fact, love learns to say no. Sometimes it realizes this is not my deal. I'm not in this. So I can respectfully say to someone, no thanks. I don't think this is for me. And the other thing love doesn't do is this. It doesn't manipulate others. We don't do things to or for other people just to satisfy their comfort or pleasure.