

How to Love a Rebel

1 John 3:11-24

THE REBELS IN JESUS' DAY

The Shepherds - Luke 2:8-20 ...

The good news is for...

- ❶ Rebels like us.
- ❷ Rebels around us.

HOW TO LOVE A REBEL

6 Things to Keep in Mind - 1 John 3:11-24

- ❶ Love is a command, not an option. (v.11)
- ❷ Love is an outward proof of an inward change. (v.14)
- ❸ Love has an example to follow. (v.16)
- ❹ Love is not just an attitude or an emotion but an action. (vs.17-18)
- ❺ Love will cost us something. (vs.17-18)
- ❻ Loving others draws us closer to God. (vs.19-24)

Current Series: Advent - *Longing for His appearing*

How to Love a Rebel_Part 4-Message by Pastor Jesse Elizondo (12/23/12).

REALife Application

1. Think and reflect for a few moments on the level of priority you've given to loving people in your life recently. Have you given it the priority it deserves?

Do you think you need to make any changes? If so, what are they?

2. Is there a situation in your life requiring "tough love" that you would like prayer for?

3. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenged a number of the common teachings of the day on such topics as prayer, anger, divorce, and love. In Matthew 5:43-48, what misconceptions about love did Jesus address?

What motivations do you see in this passage for loving others?

What do you think it looks like in real life to love your enemy?

4. There are times when loving someone means exercising "tough love" – doing what is best for them even when they may not like it or appreciate it. The Apostle Paul had a personal "tough love" encounter with another great Christian, the Apostle Peter, in Galatians 2:11-14. After reading the passage, answer the following questions.

How does it strike you that these two "pillars of faith" would be involved in such an encounter?

What could have been some unintended consequences if Paul had simply ignored Peter's actions?

How does the following passage help you decide when love calls for going the extra mile or drawing the boundaries of "tough love"?

2 Thessalonians 3:10-15

5. Wherever Jesus went, crowds flocked to Him. His response to these crowds earned Him the reputation of not only being a miracle worker but also a friend of sinners and outcasts. What do you notice about Jesus' response to people in Matthew 9:9-13 and Luke 7:36-39?

In our culture, do you think Jesus is still thought of as a friend of sinners? Why or why not?

What are one or two practical ways we, as Christians, could show His love in such a way that people are attracted to Jesus, the One who truly loves them?

Can you think of any things we should stop doing?

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❶ Rebels _____.

❷ Rebels _____.

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❶ Love is a _____, not an _____. (v.11)

❷ Love is an _____ proof of an _____ change. (v.14)

❸ Love has an _____ to _____. (v.16)

❹ Love is not just an _____ or an _____ but an _____. (vs.17-18)

❺ Love will _____ something. (vs.17-18)

❻ Loving others draws us _____. (vs.19-24)

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