

Tik-Tology

Leader Conversation Guide – Tik-Tology: Part III

Main Idea: Read Romans 12:1-2

This week Pastor Brett continued in our series Tik-Tology, in which we are revealing culture's attempt to reshape theology. There's a study out of Harvard University that shows 36% of Americans believe they have a need in their life, and no one to meet it. Hurts to share, and no one to listen to them. They have love to give, and no one to receive it. Now more than ever, the world is longing to love and to be loved. But there's a problem. Popular culture is trying to redefine what love is. In general, pop culture considers love to be a feeling or a strong emotion that overcomes a person, and they "fall in love." Of course, feelings are unstable and a person can very quickly "fall out of love." This kind of love (based upon feelings) is the kind of love that is usually seen on television and in the media. We might call this "Pop culture's philosophy of love". Even the English dictionary defines love as a feeling: "A feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection" (The Lexical Webster Dictionary). Culture's view of love is subjective and has lost its meaning.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 NIV

Make it Practical: What the Bible says about love.

- **Love originates in God.** Read John 17:5 & 17:24. Before there were any people, places or things; there was love! Love between the eternally loving, eternally secure, and eternally complete Godhead. We must begin where the Bible begins, and the Bible finds the foundation of love in the Trinity. A perfect community.
- **Love descends to earth.** Read John 3:16, 15:13. How did God show love to us? By sacrificing His only Son for our good. The Cross is proof of the son's sacrifice. The empty tomb is proof of the Father's acceptance of that sacrifice. Both of those are proof of His love for us. John 15:13 shows us that love in its purest form is to lay down your life for someone else.
- **Love extends to others.** Read John 13:35. The thrust of Scripture is vertical, meaning it primarily deals with the relationship between God and man, Creator and creation. Often, however, God clarifies the vertical using the horizontal. So, it is with love. Just as God's love for us in Christ was sacrificial, so should our love be for each other.

- **Love obeys the King.** Read John 15:14, Acts 2:46-47. It's important to note that "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" is immediately followed by John 15:14 - "You are my friends if you do what I command." Jesus's clarification introduces an element of authority into the definition of love, a clarification that grates against both pop culture and our desire for self-rule. But this contrast must be stressed because any definition of love with no room for authority is simply less than. The Bible says a lot about love, but most of all it raises our expectations and threatens our pop-culture way of thinking. Why is this so important? Because love expressed and love experienced only happens in the context of community.

"Love expressed and love experienced only happen in the context of community. God being a perfect example of both love and community."

What does a Jesus-honoring community look like?

- **A gathering of grace.** Read Phil 1:7 TPT. A safe place to belong, believe, and become who God created you to be.
- **A gathering of healing.** Read James 5:16. Healing can be physical, emotional, or spiritual.
- **A gathering of mission.** Read Acts 2:46-47. We have a divine calling, and divine purpose when we gather.

Talk About It

- If you had to define the word "love" before watching this message, what would you have said? How has this message challenged that definition?
- What is one way you can share the world loving love that God has demonstrated, with those around you this week?

Prayer

Father, thank You for loving us so graciously. Let us truly know this love so that we can be filled to the measure with all the fullness of God. Let our lives become an overflow of that love and fullness so that we can love those around us, the way that You have loved us! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Leader Tip

Life is better together. Encourage your Group members to invite a friend to join a Group! Or encourage members to start a new Group! It's never too late! Current available Groups can be seen at victorychurch.org/groups

Remind your Married/Engaged Group members that Married People is Friday, Feb. 24th at our Greenfield location! Married People is an evening full of love, laughter, and some challenging encouragement from a few of our Location Pastors! They can sign up at victorychurch.org/events