

**Love like Jesus**  
**Re-catechism 1**  
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**Introduction**

1. In the movie Les Miserables we hear the profound phrase “To love another person is to see the face of God.” St John says that love must not be a matter of words or feelings. It must be genuine, and show itself in action (1 John 3.18). Jesus calls us to imitate God, by excluding no one and embracing everyone. Jesus asks us to go out of our way and to do good even to our enemies and not simply to tolerate them or avoid taking revenge on them.

2. The life of Jesus is both appealing and disturbing. Jesus asks us to love God and to love each other in such a way that it looks beautiful and hard.

3. People were drawn to him. They were touched by his compassion for the poor, the weak, and the broken-hearted; they were touched by the way he spoke with authority. They saw in him a man of God. And they were touched not only by what he said but even more so by the way he lived, by the radiance and the love that flowed from him. In him there was no hypocrisy, no hatred, no jealousy. There was no separation between what he said and what he lived. And that’s what makes Jesus so beautiful. But it’s also what makes Jesus so disturbing.

4. Jesus called people to not to hoard their possessions but to share with the poor, to share their lives, their food, their wealth:

"When you give a lunch or a supper, do not invite your family, your rich neighbors, nor your rich friends; but when you give a dinner or a party invite the poor, the lame, the blind, and the crippled and then you shall be blest. God will be with you." (Luke 14)

5. The love that Jesus asks ended up sounding too hard, too radical, too crazy, and too unrealistic for ordinary people. So Jesus disturbed them with His love. And He disturbs us.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians Love**

1. Love is the number one ingredient in life. St Paul says: "It doesn't matter whether you can speak in the language of angels, you're nothing but noise...it doesn't matter that you have all knowledge and all wisdom ... and all faith ... and it doesn't matter that you give yourself as a martyr... it doesn't matter that you sell everything you have and give it to the poor, if you don't have love, you're nothing."

2. Many definitions of love. But there hasn't been a truer description of love than the one found in the Bible in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13.

3. Can't define love, you can only describe it in action. And so all of these words in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13 are verbs describing how love acts rather than adjectives describing love in terms of a definition.

4. Love is something you describe with verbs because love is only love when it acts. Love is not a feeling. Love is not an attitude. Love is a deed. Love is an activity.

5. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13

1. Love is patient,
2. and kind
3. never jealous
4. or boastful
5. or arrogant,
6. or rude;
7. Love isn't selfish
8. or quick tempered
9. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do.
10. Love rejoices in the truth,
11. but not in evil;
12. Love never gives up,
13. never loses faith,
14. is always hopeful,
15. and endures through every circumstance.

Love never fails

6. Jesus calls us to deny ourselves. He asks us to empty ourselves of everything we are and of everything we have. There is an abundance

and a generosity bordering on the extravagant (like St Maria of Paris tells us) not only in his teaching but also in his personal life. Look at some of the examples in his life. When He feeds the multitude at the Sea of Galilee, there is not only enough to go around, but the leftovers fill 12 baskets. When a woman anoints Him with expensive ointment and the disciples grumble about the waste, Jesus says 'truly I tell you wherever this good news is proclaimed in the world what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'

7. We don't want to take the risk to love this hard. We're afraid we might get hurt, that others might use us. We all need to be honest with ourselves if we are going to break away from our selfish, inward looking, comfortable world and experience true happiness, true joy, true meaning in our life, true love. Because when we love freely then we will live freely. And that's the beauty of God's love, of true love. It is liberating.

### **Love in Practice**

1. We all want so much more from our church. We all want to feel welcomed and wanted and needed and loved. And that is really hard. It requires a sacrifice on our part. And it will happen when one by one, we each change and begin to love like Jesus. And that is what we are supposed to be here at St Demetrios church. Friends who love and who are loved to death. We are brothers and sisters. We must desire each others good as much as we desire our own good. We must love everyone as we love ourselves. This is the new commandment. Jesus says "This is my commandment, that you should love one another, *as I have loved you.*" We are commanded to love with God's love.

2. St Paul says

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. *And walk in love*, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 4:31-5:2)

3. Walk in love. You will only love because you've been forgiven much and if you sense that, then when you love others you too will forgive others much. We must believe that we are loved by God. In the Bible it says "Be imitators of God, as loved children."

### **Conclusion**

1. If it is Jesus we love, him we live for, him in whom we live and have our being, then let's love like He loves us. And when we do that God will come to us and make His home with us.