

February 14, 2020

## Proving Love

John 13:34-35 “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

I never understood what my Grandmother meant when she would say, “the proof is in the pudding.” I finally looked up the origination of the phrase and here’s what I found: the proof of the pudding is said to mean that you can only judge the quality of something after you have tried, used, or experienced it. It is in the experience of something that you know or see what it is about. Jesus told His disciples that they were to love each other just like He loved them. In this way, they would be able to prove to the world that they had the same love He had.

When I contemplate this, it amazes me; Your love for one another will prove to the world. Wow! You see, this world can see the difference between conditional love and unconditional love. For years, I would explain this concept to teens by saying: There are basically three kinds of love. There is: I love you because - I love you because you’re nice to me; or I love you because you’re beautiful, etc. There is: I love you if - I love you if you will go out with me; or I love you if you will let me drive your nice car, etc. Both of these loves are conditional loves (spoiler alert: not really love at all.) The third kind of love is I love you period. No strings attached, no conditions, no reasons; I just love you.

That is God’s kind of love. It is not anything you or I can earn or that we deserve. In fact, it is just God’s character given to us. And you know what else? This world can see the difference. Jesus said God’s kind of love will prove to the world that we are His. How is your proving ground going? Are we loving like that? No strings or conditions?

Dear Father, help me to prove to others that I am Yours. You have loved me so much and I can never move away from Your love. That’s the kind of love I want to share with my friends, my family, my co-workers, my neighbors, and everyone you put in my path. Help me please Lord not to love if or because; but just love. In Jesus name, Amen