

SEPTEMBER 22 & 23

LOVE

CHIP UHRMACHER,
CEDAR FALLS CAMPUS PASTOR

INTRODUCTION

We are ending the series *Loaded* with a message from Pastor Chip on "Love," based on 1 John 4:7-12. Agape love is what is needed from the church in a divided world, which comes vertically from God so we can share it horizontally with the people outside the church. This kind of love is motivated by grace, not fear, and demonstrated through sacrificing to others by praying, serving and giving to them in a spirit of obedience to the One who is Love.

DISCUSSION

1. Pastor Chip said that agape love is not tolerance but sacrifice. Think of one situation in the last couple of months where you "tolerated" instead of sacrificed for a person or group. Describe the situation and how it would have looked different if you had sacrificed through praying, serving or giving.
2. **Read Romans 12:9-10.** According to this sermon, what is "sincere" love? How can we "honor" others above ourselves? Think of one situation in the last couple of months when you showed this kind of love to another. How did it influence your relationship with that person?
3. **Read Acts 4:32-34.** These early Christians demonstrated God's grace to their community. What can we do in our communities to demonstrate this kind of love through grace? Brainstorm places of need in your community, and find ways to sacrifice like the Christians in Acts, showing grace through praying, serving and giving.
4. Pastor Chip said God's agape love is not just a feeling. It's a verb, action, obedience. Explain what that kind of love looks like in our culture. How is it different from tolerance? How can you demonstrate this kind of obedience to your circle?

DO SOMETHING

1. Take some quiet time with God this week to explore your love relationship with Him. Focus on His sacrifice for you by giving His Son to die for your sins. **Read John 15:9-17**, and meditate on Jesus' explanation of love.
2. As a group, decide on a way to show agape love to your community as discussed in question #3 above.
3. Are fears motivating you to love others incompletely? Pray for God to reveal any fears keeping you from experiencing grace-filled love for others. Journal what God reveals to you, and share your thoughts and next steps with a trusted friend or mentor.

RESOURCES

Resources below can be accessed on RightNow Media. Set up your *free* account today!

1. *Crazy Love* series by Francis Chan
2. *Bold* series by Reach Beyond
3. *Amazing Grace* series by Francis Chan