

LOVE REFINED

Love Follows

The Corinthian model: when real love is absent...

- **Comparisons emerge** – “My brothers, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, ‘I follow Paul’; another, ‘I follow Apollos’; another, ‘I follow Cephas’; still another, ‘I follow Christ.’ Is Christ divided?” (1 Cor. 1:11-13a)
- **Judgments increase** – “This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. Don’t we have the right to food and drink? Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas? Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?” (1 Cor. 9:3-6)
- **Criticisms abound** – “For some say, ‘His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.’” (2 Cor. 10:10)

The Jesus model: love others “just as” we have been loved...

- **We have been given a better example** – “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34)

♀ *Note: in relationships all of us tend to follow the example that has been set for us.*

Jesus gives us...

- **The example of acceptance** – “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (Rom. 15:7)
- **The example of forgiveness** – “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Eph. 4:32)

- **We have been given a higher purpose** – “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

...and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Eph. 5:2)