

# appnotes

## DAY **READ ROMANS 5:6-11**

1

One of the most powerful statements in the Bible is in today's reading; "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Did you catch that? We did nothing to deserve Jesus' sacrifice, and we can do nothing to earn His grace. When the world was steeped in sin and darkness and without hope, He sent His Son down to rescue it, to rescue us, to pull us out of the darkness and into the light. We may continue to betray Him, to turn our backs, to fail Him. But Jesus proved that He is for us on that cross. Our behavior cannot make Him love us any less. I'm not sure that we can fully grasp that kind of love, but maybe we can all rest in the security of it today.

## DAY **READ ROMANS 12:9-21**

2

I like to-do lists. But at first glance, I'm not sure I like the to-do list in today's reading. Here are behaviors Christians are supposed to practice written out simply and concisely. But did you read this list closely? If you didn't, go back over it and take your time. Bless those who burn you? Put others first? Give yourself to those who can't give back? Doing these things is impossible without knowing Jesus, without understanding how much we have been forgiven and blessed. When we look at this list through the lens of the cross, it becomes less a chore and more a joy, less a to-do list and more like fulfilling our calling as Christians. We can only love others to the extent that we understand how much we have been loved.

## DAY **READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-6**

3

Do you find it hard to keep your cool when Christians don't act like Christians? Sometimes it's more difficult to extend grace to each other than to the world. The believers in the Corinthian church were having trouble resolving their internal conflicts to the extent that they were going to court with each other over "trivial cases." The apostle Paul told them to deal with their disputes within the church. When all the world sees our junk, our conflicts and issues, Jesus' name is drug through the mud. Resolving our conflicts within the church is not an attempt to hide our sin from the world, but to practice love with each other so we can be more like Jesus and not an obstacle to the gospel.

## DAY

### READ PROVERBS 16:32

#### 4

When was the last time you saw your favorite superhero and his or her arch-nemesis hashing out their differences over coffee and coming to an agreement peacefully? Never, right? We enjoy watching conflict. When we are personally wronged and have our “enemies,” we tend towards explosion or seething. It’s natural to blow up at them or let the anger inside us keep building pressure. It’s uncomfortable and incredibly difficult to communicate with those who have hurt us with self-control and patience. Jesus experienced intense betrayal but only responded in love. He lavished patience on Peter, who denied ever knowing Him. He sat and ate with Judas, who He knew was betraying Him for money. How can you be like Jesus? Greatness is found in patience.

## DAY

### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

#### 5

Have you ever heard this passage read at weddings? The couple is told to love one another as the passage says. The sober reality is that some of those marriages have ended in divorce. It turns out, loving with this kind of extravagant love is difficult. It is selfless and sacrificial and thinks of others first. It’s a good thing we have the perfect example of this, Someone we can emulate. Jesus personified love. He is patient. He is kind. He keeps no record of wrongs. We can see it so clearly when we observe His patience with His disciples, His forgiveness of those crucifying Him, His perseverance and love that held Him on the cross to save us. So look at the passage again and pick one aspect of love you can practice today.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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