



# Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

**May 5, 2024: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Theme: Jesus Defines His Love and Ours**

*John 15:9-17*

<sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

1. What’s your favorite “Love Song”? How is love defined in any of those songs?
2. How do those definitions differ from the way that Jesus defines his love in John 15 and in 1 John 4?

3. “If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love.” It’s easy for us to turn that into a merit system: ‘If I keep more of God’s commands, he will love me more. If I keep less of God’s commands, he will love me less.’ In what sense does keeping God’s commands allow us to remain in his love?
4. In way ways do we have to sacrifice self in order to express our love back to God?
5. In what ways do we have to sacrifice self in order to express our love for one another?
6. Obeying God’s commands and showing sacrificial love might seem to some like it would just be a drag—exhausting and no fun. What do we actually find as we do these things? How can this be true?
7. There are times where loving someone who takes advantage of you will not produce joy in your relationship with that person. In those situations, how can you tap into the joy of being friends with Jesus?
8. What parts of this section help prepare you to give someone an answer for why decision theology (making a decision to accept Christ into our heart) is unbiblical?
9. Love each other as I have loved you. This summarizes the Lutheran doctrine of “Vocation”. How do we serve God in each of the vocations or roles he has given us?