

Feelings are not _____

a message series at journey.

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FEELINGS ARE NOT LOVE.

⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

1 John 4:7-10 NLT

- The basis of true, real, and lasting love isn't about feelings at all, it's about choice.

"You can will to love people. Love is not a feeling. Love is a willing, and the Lord says to love people. He did not mean [to merely] feel love for them". — A.W. Tozer

¹ If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 NLT

- When you decide, no matter what, to love and make that choice consciously, constantly, and consistently it creates a firm foundation.

- Because feelings change from moment to moment they can't always be trusted.
- Biblical love is not a feeling or an emotion; it's a decision. It is an action, and it's sacrificial. It's not something you feel, it is something you practice.
- "Love says, 'I've seen the ugly parts of you and I'm staying.'" Matt Chandler
- That's what Christ did when he demonstrated his love on the cross. He chose us despite our ugly.

JESUS LOVES US AND CHOSE US.

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. **Romans 5:6-8 NLT**

- Jesus modeled love for us.

³⁷ Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." **Matthew 22:37-40 NLT**

In Greek (the language of the New Testament) there are four words that commonly get translated into our English word "love":

- "Storge" which means "Love for family."
- "Phileo" is the "love" of friendship where there is a common bond that is shared.
- "Eros" is the love of deep desire. This is the love of intimacy and romance. We get the word "erotic" from the root Greek "eros."
- "Agape" is the love that refers to a commitment and implies action. This commitment recognizes the infinite worth of others and does so without partiality. This is the love of God.

My unwillingness to love indicates that I adopt the worldly view of love, which is based on feelings and merit.

² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. **Romans 12:2 NLT**

¹³ Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. **1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT**

We are not going to like everyone, nor are we called to; we are called to love everyone regardless of how we feel about them.

Next steps for me today...

- **To choose Jesus.**
- **To choose to love as Jesus loves me.**