# How do you love 3. In the community Matthew 5:38-48

# 4 loves

## Affection (storgé), Brotherly love (philia)

## Erotic (eros), Self-giving (agapé)

# The Sermon on the Mount

## Jesus is laying out what it’s like to live in the kingdom of heaven (with God in charge)

### First, He says, it’s about blessing (5:1-12)

### Then it’s about influence (5:13-16)

### Then it’s about attitude to other people (5:17-48)

### Then it’s about how you express your faith (6:1-18)

### Then it’s about values – what you treasure, what you worry about and how you judge others (6:19-7:6)

## The kingdom of heaven is ALL of these together – transforming you to see yourself & the world as God sees it and living accordingly

# Jesus wants you to be loving

## He made you capable of giving all kinds of love

### He wants you to love other people unconditionally (agapé)

#### That’s the kind the Kingdom of heaven is going to be famous for

### Loving doesn’t mean agreeing with them

## This love…

### Is Self-sacrificing and other focussed

### Hears the voice of the ‘selfish me’ within and trusts that God is right

### Raises another up and lets them become all that they were intended to be without fear that they will become better than you

# God wants you to see what He sees in others

## Every person in our community has the potential to

### Touch God and be touched by God

### Find an eternal home in heaven through Jesus Christ

### Make a difference in the name of Christ

### Lose themselves in Christ only to find their true selves in Him

## They are potential sharers in the kingdom of God

### With God’s help you’ll be able to express this kind of love to others

# God is watching with interest and says

## I made you to get the best from others

### My kind of love does that

## I want your church to be like the one I imagined

### And founded on this kind of love

## I want your reputation to be great

### Built on the kind of love God gives us

#### None of the apostles let this standard of love slip

## Let me in and I’ll show you how to do it at the next level

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Love is the answer

## How do you treat a person you like when:

### You disagree with them?

### You don’t like what they are doing?

### When they annoy you?

### When they annoy others?

## How do you treat a person you don’t like who does the same?

## How do you treat a stranger who does the same?

## The standard of love for the church in the world is self-sacrificing love (agapé)

### To what extent does this mean Christians should serve all people?

### How can Christians remain serving without becoming slaves and sub-servient?

# Defining service

## How would you define ‘serving others’?

## To what extent do you agree that to serve another person is to focus on them to bring the best out of them

### Think of a friend/family member/church member/acquaintance and consider what could be done to bring out the best from them?

#### Do rebukes need to be made?

#### Do challenges need to be given?

#### What encouragements need to be delivered?

## How does service change when we view people negatively?

### How far do you agree that ‘if a Christian can’t pray for someone positively first then they cannot serve them’

## How far do you agree that true service is to enable potential

# Loving the community

## How could HBC serve the community better?