

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO



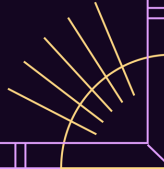
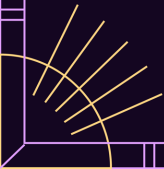
— JOHN —



Why does it end this way?

Everyone must go through this transformation.
Everyone is susceptible to self-pity

Everyone must face their fear, doubt and shame
to become a disciple who is a believer and a lover.



The Self-Pity Slide

Fear – Something bad will happen

Doubt – This won't work

Shame – Something's wrong with me





**If you love me,
follow me.**



KEY IDEA

**Our love must
strengthen from
sentiment to sacrifice**

Faith can strengthen an affection for Jesus into a devotion that loves to lead, take responsibility and make sacrifices.

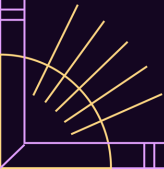
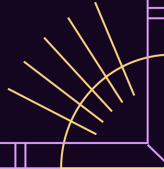
POINT 1

Love must be operational

Sentiment or affection can be real, but they must become the kind of devotion that overcomes shame, fear and doubt unto action.



“Do you love me more than these?”

1. These things and people – fishing
 2. More than you love these men – their presence and approval?
 3. More than these other disciples love me?
- 
- 



Peter's own professions

John 13:37 *"I'll lay down my life for you!"*

Matthew 26:33 *"Peter replied, 'Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.'"*



“You know I love you.”

It's real, but it doesn't matter.
Your fear, doubt and shame
matter more.



Application:

Obedience (operational love) is the only way to be with Jesus.

He is in his own operational love working out through the Spirit. To be with him, you have to be there.

POINT 2

Love is stewardship

Authentic love always takes on
reliable responsibility.



“Shepherd my sheep”

**Stewardship
loves must
mature into
grafted loves.**



Fear, doubt and shame inhibit this transition.
Faith enables it.

Grafted loves are Application: life giving and God glorifying

John 4:32-34

“I have food to eat that you know nothing about... My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.””



POINT 3

**Operational stewardship
embraces the unfairness**

Commitment is inherently "unfair".
Everyone's "deal" turns out to be different.
Resignation empowers love through focus



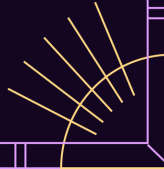
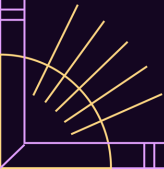

**"If I...
what is that to you.
You must follow me."**



Futility vs. Resignation

Comparison divides our focus. It is constantly calculating “who is getting the better deal?” It leads toward self-pity; then anger or **Futility** (settling hard, giving up).

Faith counts the cost of love and remembers the hope and promise of love, even when comparison is tempting. It kills comparison, offers the difference as worship, embraces the honor of sacrifice, and discerns the dangers of self-pity. Faith is **resigned** in its choice.





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KEY IDEA

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Now think how Jesus did these

His love is operational, not just sentimental affection

He took responsibility to save and redeem us

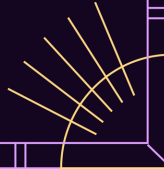

He was focused and resigned to accomplish his purpose

This is love. This is devotion. This is operational passion.

This is the kind of love that matters.

This is the love Jesus loves with.

It is a feature that he demands it of his disciples/apostles.



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