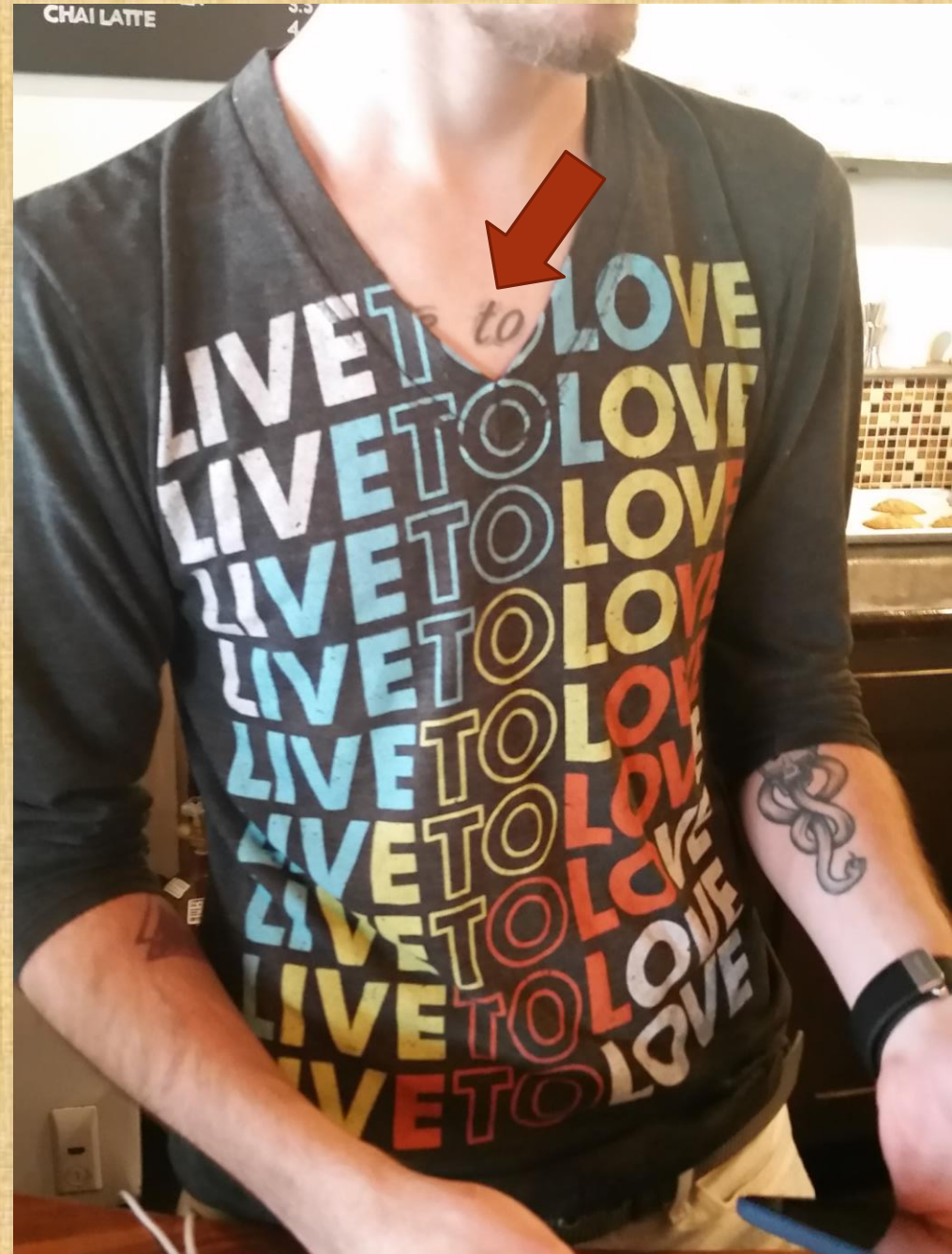


Tattoo-committed love

Like God

“Live
to
Love”



Galatians 5:14

For the **entire law is fulfilled** in keeping this one command:
"Love your neighbor as yourself."

Ephesians 5:1

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and **walk in love**, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”

Eph 5:1 Therefore **be imitators** of God, as beloved children; ² AND **walk in love**,

2 Commands:

- 1) Be Imitators of God
- 2) Walk in Love

We walk in love

BY being Imitators

Eph 5:1 Therefore **be imitators** of God,

“Therefore”: What is the “Therefore”
THERE FOR?

Def. Therefore: “shows what ought now to be done by reason of what has been said before”

**Eph 4:³² "Be kind to one another,
compassionate, forgiving each other,
just as God in Christ also has forgiven
you."**

We need to appreciate God's character in order to imitate it.

“Emotional Contagion”

“Phenomenon of having one person's emotions and related behaviors directly trigger similar emotions and behaviors in other people.”

**“The way I see the world determines
who I become”**

-John Mark McMillan

We are called to be Imitators of God's love that is:

1) Forgiving

2) Kind

3) Compassionate

Eph 4:³² Be **kind** to one another, **compassionate**, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has **forgiven** you.

1) God's Love is FORGIVING

Eph 4:32 "...forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Forgiving (Gk.=charizomai): Pardoning; granting grace; letting go of your "rights" to justice or revenge.

Matt 18: 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven times."

23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

1) God's Love is FORGIVING

Eph 4:32 "...forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

²⁷ And having compassion on him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, **he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'**

33: 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'

Imitators: Forgiveness Modeled

Jesus being Crucified

Luke 23:34 But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

Stephen during Stoning

Acts 7: 60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!”

Psalm 86:5 - “For Thou, Lord, are **KIND**, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon Thee.

2) God's Love is Kind

Eph 4:32 "Be **kind** to one another"

"Be Kind" Gk. = *chrēstos*: "Useful;
providing benefit and blessing to others"

Luke 6:35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, **and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is **KIND** to ungrateful and evil men.** Be therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful."

Romans 2:4 "Or do you think lightly of the riches of His **kindness** and tolerance and patience, not knowing that **the kindness of God leads you to repentance?**"

God's "random acts" of Kindness

Titus 3:4 "But when the KINDNESS and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy"

Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us...raised us up with (Christ) and seated us with him in the heavenly places...
7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in KINDNESS toward us in Christ Jesus.

3) God's Love is Compassionate

Eph 4:³² "Be kind to one another, **compassionate**"

Compassionate = (Gk. eu-splagchnos) = "Good Guts"

Com = With

Passion = Feeling

Idea: Feeling pain with Others, deeply.

Also translated: "Tender-hearted"

I feel you!

Compassion of Jesus

“As Jesus stepped ashore, He saw a huge crowd, felt compassion for them, and healed their sick.”

--Matt 14:14

“Jesus summoned His disciples and said, “I have compassion on the crowd, because they've already stayed with Me three days and have nothing to eat. I don't want to send them away hungry; otherwise they might collapse on the way.”

---Matt 15:32

Compassion is the Turning Point

Matt 18:27 (Slave owner)

“Then the master of that slave **had compassion**, released him, and forgave him the loan.”

Luke 15:20 (Prodigal Father)

“So (the son) got up and went to his father. But **while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion**. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him.

"Compassion was the turning point in Jesus' stories; It may also be the turning point in yours"



VS



Tattoo-committed love

Like God



Tattoos & Piercings

Isaiah 53:5

“He was **pierced** through **for our transgressions,**”

“He showed them His hands and His feet.” -Luke 24:40

“...so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in KINDNESS toward us in Christ Jesus.” -- Eph 2:7