

LOVE WHEN IT'S HARD

1 Corinthians 16:14

“Let all that you do be done in love.”

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It's easy to showcase love in the easy moments.

It's easy to congratulate our teammate when they make the winning play. It's easy to celebrate with our friends when things are going our way. It's even easy to love our competitors when we're the ones walking away with the victory.

But what happens when things don't go our way?

When someone disappoints us. When a teammate lets us down. When someone says something that hurts. When the person we were competing against beats us.

That's when love gets tested.

Jesus never told us to love only when it was convenient. He showed us a kind of love that went far beyond convenience. He loved people who rejected Him. He showed compassion to people who misunderstood Him. And even as He was being crucified, He prayed for the very people who were putting Him on the cross.

That is a different kind of love.

The world often teaches us to love people who love us back, celebrate people who celebrate us, and respect people who earn our respect. But Jesus calls us to something greater.

“Let all that you do be done in love.” Notice that Paul doesn't say, “Let the things that are easy be done in love.” He says **all** that you do.

That includes the hard conversations. The disappointments. The losses. The moments when someone gets under your skin. The moments when someone else gets the recognition you wanted. Even the moments when your competition beats you.

Our response in those moments reveals something about what is really in our hearts.

Loving someone when everything is going our way doesn't cost us much. But choosing love when we're hurt, disappointed, or defeated—that's where we begin to reflect the love of Jesus.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE

Don't just ask, "Who is easy for me to love?"

Ask, "Who is God asking me to love when it isn't easy?"

A DIFFERENT WAY TO RACE

Maybe it's the person who disappointed you. Maybe it's someone you're competing against. Maybe it's someone you simply don't see eye-to-eye with. Whatever the situation, remember: **we don't love because people always deserve it. We love because Jesus first loved us.**

PRAYER

Jesus, help me love people the way You love me. When I'm disappointed, hurt, overlooked, or defeated, help me respond with love instead of pride, anger, or bitterness. Give me the strength to love when it's hard—not just when it's easy. Let everything I do today be done in love. Amen.

RACING & MINISTRY

It's about more than just racing.