

Living in Love and Faith – Part One

Living in Love

Sunday 8th May 2022

Recommended Further Reading:

Is God anti-gay? by Sam Allberry

The Plausibility Problem by Ed Shaw

The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert by Rosaria Butterfield

www.LivingOut.org

Introduction – Living in Love and Faith

(1) Jesus was radically inclusive

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

³¹ Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”
(Luke 5:27-32, NIV)

→ Living in love means being radically inclusive

(2) Jesus was radically challenging

²³ Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

(Luke 9:23-24, NIV)

- a. Jesus challenged all

- b. Jesus challenged all to live by God's word

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5:17-19, NIV)

- c. Jesus challenged all to live by God's word for our good

→ Living in love means challenging and encouraging each other to live by God's word

Conclusion– our calling is to be BOTH inclusive AND challenging