

2-28-26 He Loves Me - Give, Build, Love

Overview

This message, part of the "He Loves Me" series, emphasizes God's **unconditional love** that never wavers ("He loves me" — never "He loves me not"). While God's love for us is unchanging regardless of our actions, **what we do matters** because it shapes what we are **known for** — our legacy, effectiveness, witness, credibility, and fruit. The sermon challenges listeners to shift from transactional to unconditional love, leading to transformation that improves relationships with God and others. It calls believers to be known for **giving, building** (people, not just things), and **loving** like Jesus, as a response to experiencing His love first.

Key themes include being known, loved, and challenged in community; the importance of character and faith over material wealth; and practical outworking through generosity, eternal focus, and Christ-like actions.

Main Points

1. **God's love is unconditional and unchanging** — Delete "He loves me not" from your thinking (four weeks of emphasis).
2. **What you do matters** — It affects your:
 - o Effectiveness (Matthew 5:13 — salt that flavors)
 - o Witness (1 Peter 2:12 — honorable behavior glorifies God)
 - o Credibility (Proverbs 22:1 — good name > riches)
 - o Fruit (Matthew 12:33 — known by your fruit)
3. **People are known by what they've done** — Examples: George Strait, Billy Graham, Iron Man vs. Thanos, etc. Legacy is character and faith, not money (Billy Graham quote).
4. **Transformation happens when you love like Jesus** — You become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17); God gives a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26). C.S. Lewis analogy: God rebuilds you into a palace, not just a cottage.
5. **Be known for three things:**
 - o **What you give** — Cheerfully, unconditionally (Psalm 37:21; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7). Give encouragement, love, forgiveness, etc., not sparingly. Givers vs. takers.
 - o **What you build** — People over wealth (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11; Deuteronomy 8:18). John D. Rockefeller example: ruthless wealth-building led to misery until he gave generously. Focus on eternal blessing (Abrahamic covenant principle).
 - o **How you love** — Everything hinges on love (1 John 2:15-17). Love eternally, beyond failures; forgive from love, not hate. Mimic Jesus in actions.
6. **Wrap-up** — Personal story of Memaw (known for kindness). Legacy: What will people say about you? Receive God's love first to give, build, and love well. Invitation to salvation/rededication.

Reflection Questions

- What am I currently **known for** by others? Does it align with Christ-like character?
- How has viewing God's love as conditional affected my relationships or self-worth?
- In what areas do I give sparingly (e.g., encouragement, forgiveness, time, resources)? Why?
- Am I building wealth/things more than people? What legacy am I leaving for my family/friends?
- How has Jesus been to me (e.g., forgiving, encouraging)? How can I be that to others?
- Where do I need the Holy Spirit to change my heart (e.g., from taker to giver, hate to love)?

Application

- **Receive first** — Spend time daily receiving God's unconditional love through prayer, Scripture, or worship. If needed, pray for salvation or rededication (new heart/start).
- **Give intentionally** — This week, give encouragement, patience, or resources without expecting return. Track one act of cheerful giving daily.
- **Build people** — Invest in one person (family member, friend, or someone in need) through time, belief, or support. Prioritize eternal impact over material accumulation.
- **Love actively** — Practice mimicking Jesus: Forgive someone (route love through Him if needed); show kindness even when difficult.
- **Evaluate legacy** — Journal what you want to be known for at life's end. Ask a trusted friend ("The Five") for honest feedback on your character/fruit.
- **Community step** — Join or deepen involvement in a group where you can be known, loved, and challenged.

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Share one way you've seen unconditional love (God's or another's) change your heart or relationships this month.
2. Play "What Are They Known For?": Discuss Cain/David/Judas, Delilah/Lazarus/Jezebel, Naaman/Enoch/Stephen. What positive/negative traits stand out, and why?
3. How do you balance building success (career, finances) with building people? Share a personal example or struggle.
4. Where do you tend to be a "taker" vs. "giver"? How can the group encourage each other toward cheerful giving?
5. Read the C.S. Lewis "living house" quote. Where is God "knocking the house about" in your life right now, and how can we support one another through it?
6. What legacy do you want to leave (character/faith vs. money/things)? How does receiving God's love enable that?
7. Pray together: Invite the Holy Spirit to help everyone give, build, and love like Jesus, submitting barriers to His leading.

This sermon's core call: Experience God's unchanging love → Be transformed → Be known for giving, building, and loving like Him.