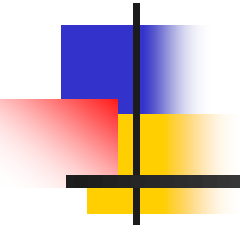


The Only

Thing That

Matters





In A Relationship

- But, for disciples of Jesus, what does that mean, exactly?
- Yes, of course, we are in a relationship with Jesus – he is our Lord and he lives in us and through us
- BUT, what is the clearest and simplest definition of a disciple of Jesus?
- Loves like Jesus loves
- We are also in a sacrificial servant relationship with those around us,



Looks Like This

Romans 12:9 *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; [i]give preference to one another in honor; **11** not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **12** rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, **13** contributing to the needs of the [k]saints, [l]practicing hospitality.



Christianity = Relationship

- We say all the time that Christianity is not a religion, it is a
- **RELATIONSHIP**
- A convert has a relationship with Jesus
- A Disciple of Jesus is also in a sacrificial servant relationship with those that Jesus Loves



Bye Bye, World!

- Galatians 6:14 But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the **world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.** 15 For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the **only thing that matters is a new creation** 16 And all who will behave in accordance with **this rule,** peace and mercy be on them, and on the Israel of God.
- This new creation has a NEW IDENTITY, A NEW PURPOSE



Hello, Love!

- Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus **neither circumcision nor uncircumcision** carries any weight—**the only thing that matters is faith working through love.**
- So, what does it mean to be a New Creation?
- Someone whose faith in and absolute dependence on Jesus and His life living inside, is now empowered to love like Jesus loves.



The Only Thing That Matters

- Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an **opportunity to indulge your flesh** (*not about you now*)
- **but through love serve one another.**
- 14 For the whole law can be summed up in a single commandment, namely, “You must love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Let Jesus Love through you, **it is the only thing that matters**



Good News!, YOU Are

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY