



Love EveryOne.

The Agenda – PART 2

August 22-23, 2015 • John Dickerson

Who in your life feels like it's impossible to love?

Our Agenda: Fear No One. LOVE EVERYONE.

How can I love (the way Jesus loved) the people who oppose me?

Context of Acts 2:36-41 - If Peter could transform from loveless and fearful to fearlessly loving, then I can too.

What happened to Peter that allowed him to be both fearless and loving?

1. Peter was CONTROLLED by the Holy Spirit.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit descends on you..."

– Acts 1:8

Personal Affirmation: I can love my enemies because God's NATURE lives in me.

2. Peter was mentally **FOCUSED** on God's Truth.

*"They devoted themselves to **the apostle's teaching**"*

– Acts 2:42a

2a. The Apostles remembered and taught what Jesus *said*:

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.** He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good..."*

– Matthew 5:43-45

2b. The Apostles remembered and taught what Jesus *did*:

"When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him...Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'"

– Luke 23:33,34

Personal Affirmation: I can love my enemies because that's what my **FATHER** does.

3. Peter **UNITED** with other believers.

*“They devoted **themselves** to...the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

– Acts 2:42b

Personal Affirmation: I can love my enemies because I never do it alone.

Application/Discussion Questions

1. Last week we learned God's agenda for us. When people oppose, intimidate, or persecute us, God empowers us to be loving and fearless. Have you had a chance this last week to apply that fearlessness? (If you missed last week's message, you can watch or listen to it at venturechristian.org/teaching)
2. This week we focused on loving those who oppose us. Where in your life does it seem impossible for you to love? Who is the person? What is the situation where love seems impossible?
3. Take a moment to compare the fearful, unloving Peter of *Luke 22:54-62* to the Fearless and Loving Peter of *Acts 2:36-42*. Do you believe God could transform you just like He transformed Peter—to love beyond your own nature?
4. Do you desire to live a life controlled by fear and hate, or a life controlled by courage and love? If you want to be fearless and loving, ask God to help you. If you're serious about your request to God, consider joining a group of other believers who can encourage you to live out this radical agenda. You can join a group by emailing: sgcoordinator@venturechristian.org or by calling 408.997.4619.



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