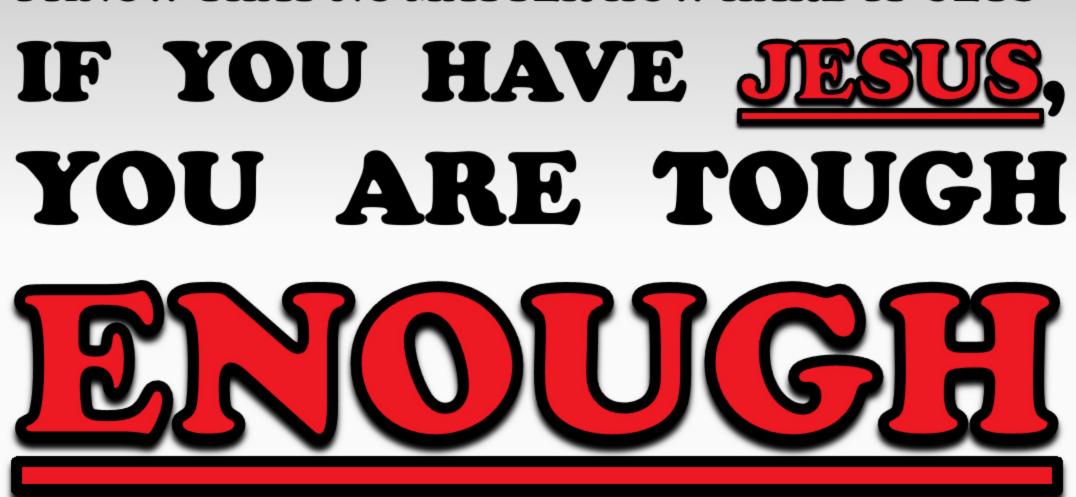


I KNOW THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD IT GETS





OUR CULTURE IS IN LOVE WITH AN EASY VERSION OF LOVE.

Tough Love is not about what I can <u>Get</u> in return, it is about what I can <u>Give</u>.

Matthew 27:15-17 NLT

Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd—anyone they wanted.

This year there was a notorious prisoner, a man named

Matthew 27:15-17 NLT

Barabbas. ¹⁷ As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

Matthew 27:20-22, 26 NLT

²⁰ Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. 21 So. the governor asked again, "Which of these two do you want me to release to you?" The crowd shouted back, "Barabbas!"

Matthew 27:20-22, 26 NLT

²² Pilate responded, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"
They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

²⁶ So Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

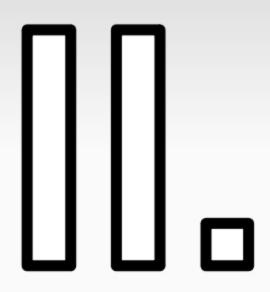
Romans 5:8 NIV

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

WE NEED TO ABANDON AN **EASY** VERSION OF LOVE AND TRADE IT FOR A **TOUGH** LOVE.

John 13:34-35 NLT

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."



BIBLE VERSES THAT SHOW US TOUGH LOVE

1 Peter 4:8 NLT

8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

SHALLOW LOVE EXPOSES, WHILE DEEP LOVE COVERS AND PROTECTS.

1 John 3:14-16 NLT

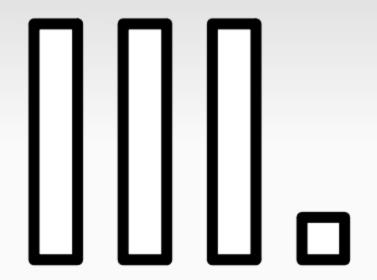
¹⁴ If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. 15 Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.

1 John 3:14-16 NLT

¹⁶ We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

John 15:9-10 NLT

⁹ "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love."



THREE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD'S



LOVE.

GOD'S TOUGH LOVE IS SACRIFICIAL

GOD'S TOUGH LOVE IS SACRIFICIAL

1 John 4:9-10 NLT

⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

GOD'S TOUGH LOVE IS SACRIFICIAL

John 15:13 NLT

¹³ There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

GOD'S TOUGH LOVE IS WATER TOU

GOD'S TOUGH LOVE IS WATER TOU

Jeremiah 31:3b NLT

"I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself."

GOD'S TOUGH LOVE IS WATER TOU

Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

- The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
- 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

GOD'S TOUGH LOVE IS LIFE-GIVING

GOD'S TOUGH LOVE IS LIFE-GIVING

Ephesians 2:4-5 NLT

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.