



PART 1: It's Not in Me

INTRODUCTION

Following Jesus requires us to love. It moves us to look at the world around us—a world full of problems, brokenness, and suffering—and ask, “*What does love require of me?*” But what if love requires more than we have to give? What if we’re just not strong enough, courageous enough, or good enough to do what love requires?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When have you felt overwhelmed by a problem, event, or change in your life? What did you do?
2. Talk about a time when someone loved you even though you didn’t deserve it. How did that experience influence your life and faith?
3. When you think about yourself growing as a person, what are some things that you imagine changing? In the past, what has prevented you from changing those things?
4. Read John 15:5–7. Is it difficult for you to believe that you can “do nothing” apart from Jesus? Why or why not?
5. Is there a small ambition you need to give up in order to grow and change by remaining in Jesus? If so, what obstacles stand in the way?
6. What is one practical thing you can do this week to *constantly consider* and *intentionally invest* in your relationship with God? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Can love require more of you than you have to give? Yes . . . if you try to rely on your own strength, courage, and goodness. But if you remain in Jesus, you’ll have everything you need to love abundantly. Remaining in Jesus will determine your desire and ability to do what love requires of you.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5