




Sticky Love

Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ~ Colossians 3:14


Discover the Context Colossians 3:1-17

 “I cannot learn to love my neighbor as myself till I learn to love God, and I cannot learn to love God except by learning to obey him.”
~ C.S. Lewis
Mere Christianity

 If love is a choice, why is it so hard to love some people? What can you do to help you choose to love someone? Who is God calling you to love who may seem unlovable?

 Here are some practical steps to take to grow in loving your campers and other staff.

- ▶ Pray for them.
- ▶ Say *hello* to them in passing.
- ▶ Write a note.
- ▶ Give a gift.
- ▶ Intentionally spend time with them.
- ▶ Pray for them.

 Ask God to change your heart toward the unlovable person in your life. Ask God to increase your love for God so that it overflows in love toward others.

From what I’ve observed at camp, love and unity are often easy to produce. At the beginning of the summer, that is. Of course you get along with everyone—you just got there, and you have no reason not to. The season is fresh and new. Staff training time allows you to get to know your teammates, and you have those glorious opportunities to build friendships.

Then the kids come.

When campers arrive the focus shifts away from you and your relationships to them and theirs. Camper needs take priority over yours. Camper activities supplant your own. At the beginning you could listen to Rend Collective by the pool while enjoying stimulating conversation and a cold glass of lemonade with your peers. Now the music is all Hillsong Kids, and your conversation centers on Paw Patrol, the icky toad by the cabin, and why did God have to make poison ivy? This is when it gets hard to lovingly stick with your staff team.

According to God’s word real love is not automatic. It doesn’t just happen. Otherwise he wouldn’t need to tell us to put it on. But today’s verse says, “Put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.”

Putting on love is a continual, conscious choice we need to make. Real love is sacrificial. It is patient and kind and a whole list of other things (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). Love is the greatest command we are given in Scripture. Every Old Testament law and every New Testament freedom is wrapped up in love. Love unites us. Love empowers us. Love is what we were made for.

Here’s a great little reminder: God not only gives us the command to love, he also provides the love itself. If you’re running low on unity, ask God to love the other staff and campers through you. Even that friend who betrayed your trust. Even that camper who makes you want to run screaming into the lake. Even that director who just doesn’t get your point.

Love is more important than anything else. Put it on and put it to work. **ARS**