



Part 1: True Love?

Every relationship starts out with two people who like each other. Your emotions take over. You feel things you haven't felt before. But then you ask yourself: is this just a phase? Will it go as quickly as it came? Can it be this fun for long? The same thing happens spiritually. What begins as a curiosity about Jesus always lands somewhere else. But what do you do with that?

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13 NLT, John 21:15 NLT

Bottom Line: Liking Jesus isn't the goal. Loving him is.

Discussion Questions

1. Who was your first crush? Why did you like him or her?
2. Of the four theories Carey shared about how people become Christians, which (if any) best describes how you have thought about the subject?
3. Read Matthew 9:9-13. In the message, Carey explained some of the cultural distinctions Jesus pushed through to build a friendship with Matthew. Why do you think people in Jesus' day would be interested in Jesus as opposed to other religious officials?
4. Carey said that like is an emotion and love is a decision. In what ways has your relationship with Jesus experienced the ups and downs that many relationships experience. Does your relationship feel more like you like Jesus, or more like you love him?
5. Read John 21:15. If your relationship with Jesus was going to be characterized more by loving him rather than just liking him, what would need to change?

Moving Forward

This week, take our short online quiz ConnexusChurch.com/NoncommittalQuiz to help give you some insight into whether your relationship with Jesus is more of a beginning relationship or whether it's a relationship characterized by loving Jesus or just liking him.

Changing Your Mind

"After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." John 21:15 NLT

FOR THE CITY Don't forget to bring your food for the Salvation Army in Orillia and the Barrie Food Bank this week, and take a moment to pray for our partners today as a part of your small group.