

Give me Confirmation not just Affirmation

1 John 3:17-18

1 John 3:16-20 *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.* NKJV

Points to Consider

1. The difference between affirmation and confirmation
2. Examples of confirming love
3. Practical ways we can confirm our love to one another

The difference

Quick Tip: In a nutshell, confirm is fairly common and means to validate the truth about something (e.g., She confirmed the gossip when she announced she was pregnant). Affirm is much less common and means to say something with a strong conviction (e.g., During her speech, she affirmed her commitment to making the school more environmentally friendly). – esllibrary.com

When you affirm something, you _____ it. When you confirm something, you _____ it.

Luke 6:46-49 *"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? 47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."* NKJV

Submission to Jesus as Lord is not proven by calling Him Lord but by _____ Him as Lord.

Gen 22:9-12 *Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."* NKJV

Abraham confirmed his faith _____ the son of promise to God as a sacrifice.

Mark 2:8-12 *But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?" 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" — He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise,*

take up your bed, and go to your house." 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Jesus knew He needed to confirm His power to forgive sins by _____ something that only God could do.

John 20:24-28 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." 26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" NKJV

The apostles _____ that they saw Jesus. Thomas stated that he needed _____ . He needed to see and touch the print of the nails to validate the apostles' assertion.

John 21:15-19 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. 18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me." NKJV

Jesus wanted Peter to confirm his love by feeding His sheep and by following him to the point of _____ .

The Examples

Ruth 1:9-17 So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. 10 And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people." 11 But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters, go — for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, 13 would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me!" 14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. 15 And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me." NKJV

Orpah was fond of Naomi, but Ruth _____ her.
Ruth validated her love for Naomi by _____ her family and following her home.

Ruth 2:6-7 *So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house." NKJV*

Ruth proved her love for Naomi by _____ hard all day to provide her with the necessities of life.

Ruth 3:4 *Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." 5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do." NKJV*

Naomi demonstrated her love to Ruth by giving her good advice and Ruth confirmed her love for Naomi by doing _____ that Naomi said.

1 Kings 18:12-14 *And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the Lord will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the Lord from my youth. 13 Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord, how I hid one hundred men of the Lord's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water? 14 And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here." He will kill me!" NKJV*

Obadiah showed his love for God and the prophets by _____ His live to save theirs.

Luke 10:25-28 *And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" 27 So he answered and said, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" 28 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." NKJV*

This story starts out with the important question of what one needs to do to inherit _____ life.

Luke 10:33-37 *But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' 36 So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" 37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." NKJV*

The Samaritan's love put him in _____.

The Samaritan's love cost him _____.

The Samaritan's love cost him _____.

The Samaritan's love cost him _____.

His love was confirmed by _____ mercy.

Acts 2:44-45 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. NKJV

Acts 4:32-37 *Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. 33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. 34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. 36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. NKJV*

The early Christians recognized the temporal nature of money and the _____ significance of confirming our love by our actions.

So What?

- We are surrounded by people in need. Instead of judging why people are in need, let's focus our attention on _____ their needs.
- Brian gave us an opportunity to put bags together for the homeless. His plan is to do that a few times a year. Participate in that.
- Sometimes people will say they don't need anything. Don't be an Orpah, be a Ruth.
- We need accept help from others.
- We need to meet the needs of David and Jennifer. They need help covering their bills for three months. You can go to the [website and donate](#). You can give them cash. The link was included in an email that was sent out. It can also be found on the website under member news.

H2H Discussion Questions

1. Why is it hard to give our possession to others?
2. What can we do to encourage one another to confirm our love through our actions?
3. Many denominations have systems in place like food banks, coat drives, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens to demonstrate their love to God and the community. How can we stay true to the mission of the church while helping one another stay true to the second greatest commandment?
4. Help one another come up with a tangible plan to confirm their love for God, for the brethren, and the community.