Romans 12:9-10 (NIV)

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Honor one another above yourselves.

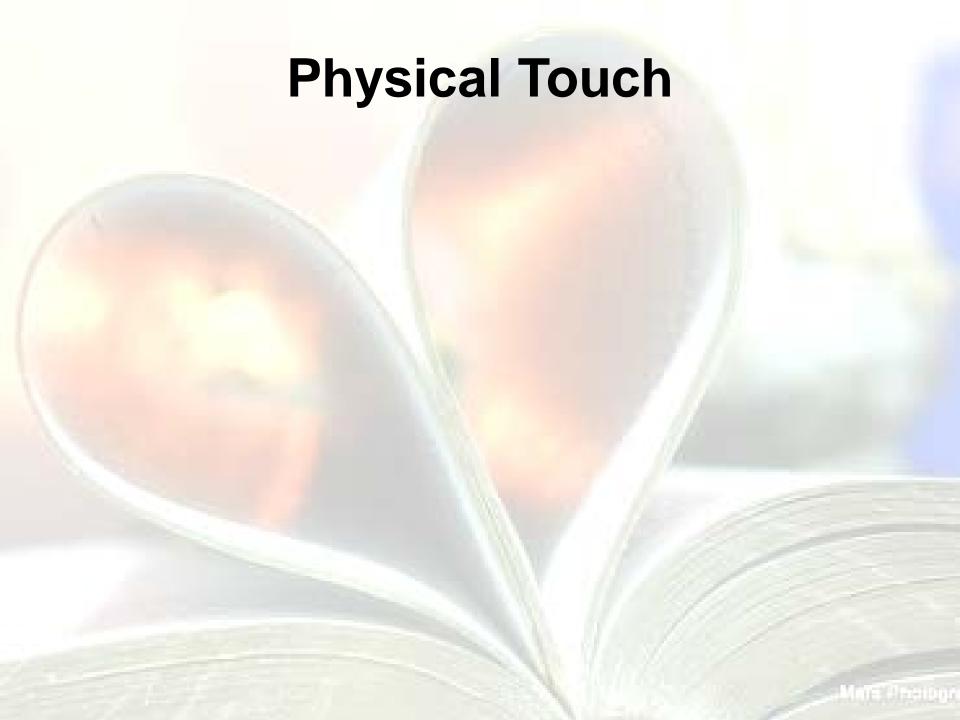
5 Love Languages®

by GARY CHAPMAN

The Secret to Love that Lasts

- >Words of affirmation
- >Quality time
- >Acts of service
- > Receiving gifts
- >Physical touch





Mark 7:31-37 (NIV)

31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. 32 There some people brought to Him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place His hand on him.

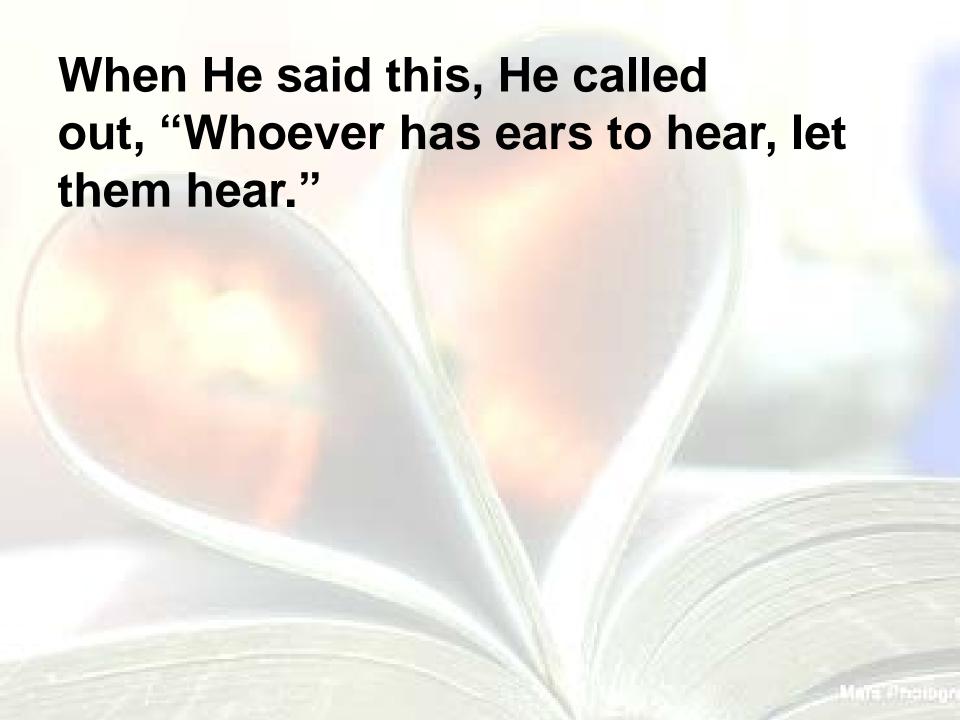
33 After He took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put His fingers into the man's ears. Then He spit and touched the man's tongue. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). 35 At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more He did so, the more they kept talking about it. 37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Luke 8:4-21 (NIV)

4 While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, He told this parable: 5 "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.

6 Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."



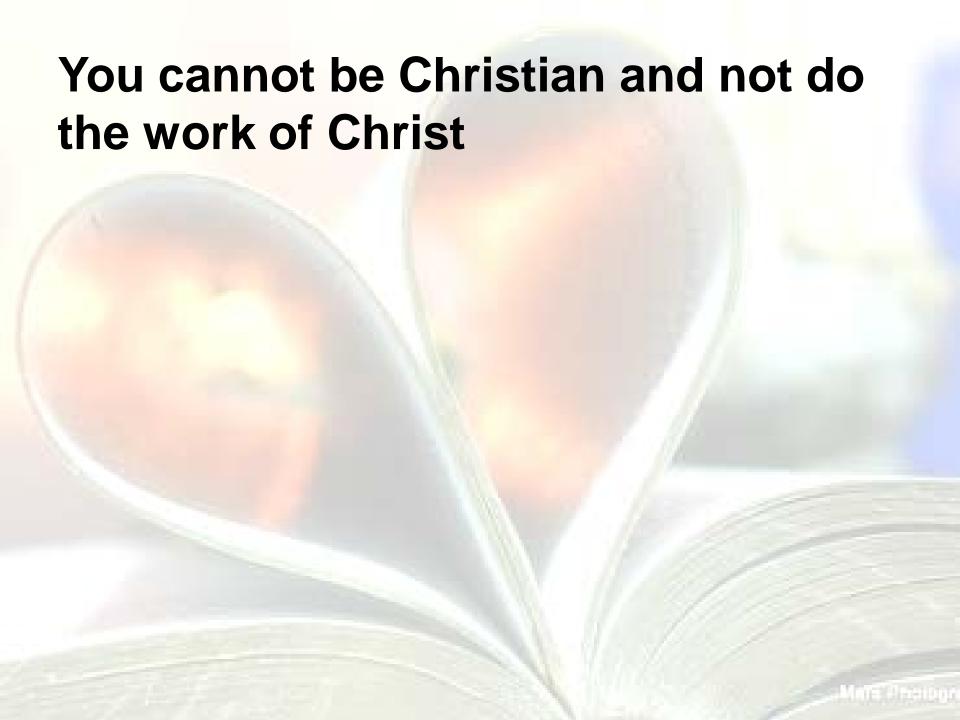
9 His disciples asked him what this parable meant. 10 He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

"'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand."

11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

13 Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

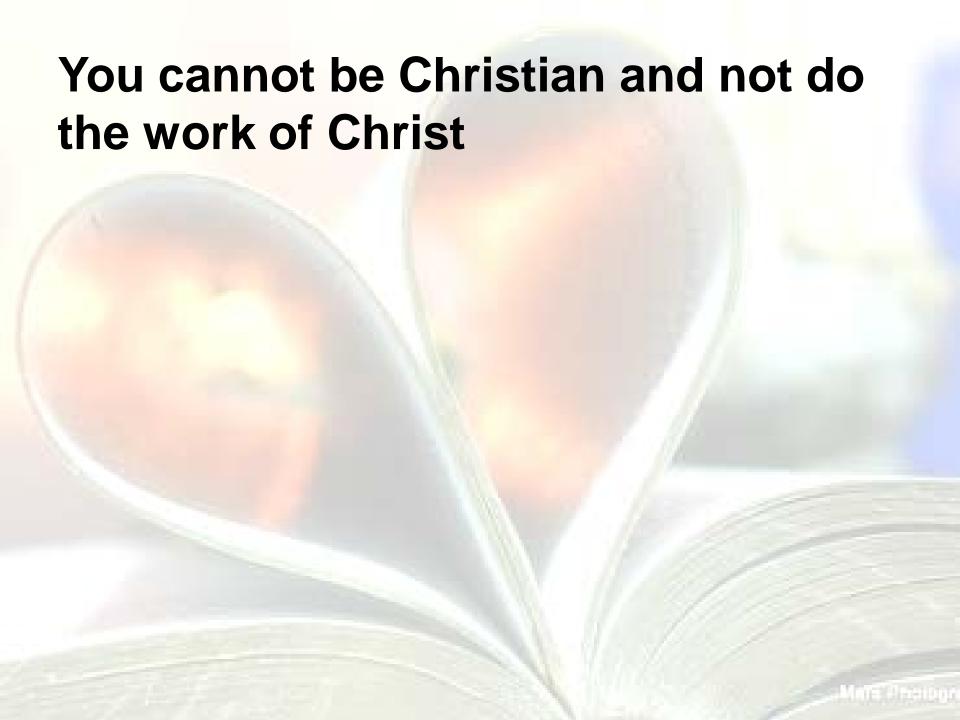
15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.



16 "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. 17 For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.

18 Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them."

19 Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see Him, but they were not able to get near Him because of the crowd. 20 Someone told Him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see You." 21 He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."



- >It started with prayer
- >A connection was made
- ➢It took 3 years
- > Multiple people involved
- >They followed the lead of the Spirit
- >It continues

- >Who has God brought to mind
- >Pray for them and you
- >Look for opportunity
- >Look for commonality (connection)
- >Move the relationship forward
- >Invite others in to the relationship
- > Be Christian (Let your light shine)
- >Don't rush it



What can we do to help?

Mid week once a month, more? Financial class (How to live debt free) **Discipleship Sunday Morning class** Small group Other?