

**Struggles in Christian living - Real Love**

**“Christianity is all about love”**

**Do you reckon the topic of love is raised more in the OT or the NT?**

**Real love...**

**a) ... Judges**

**John 15:2 ... “prunes” ... “cuts off”**

**... enjoy life and to enjoy in a way that is both good for us and for others.**

**b) ... Keeps Jesus’ commands**

**... verse 9 ... remain in Jesus’ love.**

**... verse 10 ... if we keep his commands.**

**If we encourage someone to embrace sin or to reject what God’s word says, we are actually being unloving to them.**

**Gal 6:1 ... restoring people caught in sin both humbly and gently, making sure we do not fall into the same sin as we so easily can.**

**3) ... Is costly**

**John 15:13 ... “greater love has no one than this; to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”.**

**4) ... comes from God**

**1 John ... love comes from God.**

**Firstly ...in and of ‘his trinitarian self’, he is the very source of love.**

**Secondly ... because God indwells us through his Spirit.**

**God’s Spirit equips us to obey everything that Jesus commanded.**

**For us today**

**1) People will misunderstand us**

**“How can I show real love in this situation?”**

**2) Putting real love into action**

**... expect real love to be costly**

**... expect real love to be prayerful.**

**... showing real love will not fix every problem you see around you**

**Two final thoughts...**

- 1) What else would you include if you were speaking about real love?**
- 2) And since we want real love to be shaped by God's word, where does it say that real love acts like this in God's word?**