LOVE: Spelled with TIME

Sermon by Terrell Powell

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." – 1 John 3:18

How Real Love Is Spelled with Time Spent with God

Love Starts with Presence

James 4:8 — Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

Definition: Love begins when you show up and spend time with the One you love.

You know, family, love isn’t love if you’re not present. You can’t say you love God if you never spend time with Him. God is waiting every day for your presence, not your perfection.

Reflection: Have I truly shown up for God this week?

Love Speaks in Silence

Psalm 46:10 — Be still, and know that I am God!

Definition: Silence is sacred. God speaks in peace, not in noise.

Sometimes the reason we don't hear from God is because our life is too loud. Family, when you quiet your soul, His voice gets clearer. Love listens — it doesn't just talk.

Reflection: When was the last time I sat quietly and listened for God's voice?

Love Is Measured in Moments

Psalm 90:12 — Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

Definition: Love treasures time — every moment is a gift from God.

Every second you spend thanking Him, praying, or loving others builds your faith. Don’t rush through life; slow down and notice His blessings. That’s real love in action.

Reflection: How can I use my moments today to show God’s love?

Love Takes Time to Listen

John 10:27 — My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Definition: Listening builds closeness with God.

Family, we can’t hear God if we don’t take time to listen. Reading the Bible, praying, or sitting in His presence helps us know His voice. Love always listens.

Reflection: Am I listening for God, or just talking to Him?

Love Is Not Rushed

Ecclesiastes 3:1 — For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.

Definition: Love grows in God’s timing, not ours.

You can’t microwave love. God teaches us patience through waiting. Don’t rush what God is preparing — His timing is perfect and full of purpose.

Reflection: Do I give God hurried moments or holy moments?

Love Requires Investment

Matthew 6:21 — Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Definition: What you give time to shows what you value.

Love costs something. When you give time, prayer, and energy to God, you're investing in eternity. Give Him your best, not what's left.

Reflection: Where am I investing most of my time and heart?

Love Grows Through Consistency

Luke 5:16 — But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

Definition: Consistent time builds strong faith.

Even Jesus made time daily to talk with the Father. Family, consistency turns habit into holiness. Make time for God a part of every day.

Reflection: Is my time with God consistent or convenient?

Love Shows in Service

John 21:17 — Then Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

Definition: Serving others is an act of love to God.

When you serve others, you serve God. Every kind word, every helping hand — that’s love made visible.

Reflection: Who did I serve this week as an act of love toward God?

Love Redeems Time

Ephesians 5:16 — Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

Definition: God can restore wasted time when we give it back to Him.

Don’t live in regret. God redeems what you surrender. Every moment you give Him becomes meaningful again.

Reflection: How can I give my wasted time back to God today?

Love Learns Patience

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Love is patient and kind. It is not jealous or boastful or proud.

Definition: Waiting on God is a way to show love and trust.

Patience proves faith. Family, when you wait on God’s timing, you’re telling Him you trust His heart more than your hurry.

Reflection: Am I trusting God’s timing or trying to rush it?

Love Builds Relationship, Not Routine

Revelation 3:20 — Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

Definition: God desires fellowship, not formality.

Religion checks boxes, but relationship opens the heart. Spend time with God like you would with a close friend.

Reflection: Do I meet with God out of duty or desire?

Love Is Shown by Time

John 15:13 — There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Definition: God proved His love through time and sacrifice.

Jesus stepped into our world to show what real love looks like. Family, love isn't spelled L-O-V-E — it's spelled T-I-M-E.

Reflection: How will I show my love through time this week?

Prayer of Love and Time

Lord, thank You for showing us that love is more than words — it's time spent in Your presence. Teach us to slow down, to listen, and to give You the best parts of our day. Help us to love others with patience and kindness, just as You love us. May our time reflect our love, and may our love reflect Your heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.