

Down to Earth Love

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What do you think Jesus' perspective would be on the way we celebrate Christmas?**
- 2. What would Advent and Christmas look like if it was focused on Jesus and the kind of community Jesus is calling us to be instead of being focused on you and me?**
- 3. How does your personal relationship with Jesus influence how you navigate the tension between the expectations of our culture/society and the invitation our faith extends when it comes to celebrating Advent and Christmas?**
- 4. During this busy time of year, what are some ways you remember to love others?**



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Sheri Clifton





evolution of red Starbucks cups

Designs of the red cups over the past seven years.



2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

SOURCES: Starbucks, Time Magazine

Vox



**THIS CAN'T BE THE
REAL CUP OF CHRIST**



**IT DOESN'T SAY
MERRY CHRISTMAS**

 **Philippians 2:1–2 *New International Version***

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Philippians 2:1–2 *The Message Bible*

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care – then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.



Don't have to agree to agree



We cannot love issues, but we can love people, and the love of people reveals to us the way we deal with issues.

Henri Nouwen
“The Road to Peace”



Philippians 2:3–4 *New International Version*

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3–4 *The Message Bible*

Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.




Don't have to win to win



Mark 10:35–37; 41–45; 46–52

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”



When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”



Don't have to agree or win to love



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