

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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Tom Deviney



Philippians 2:1–2


If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.



“y’all”

 Galatians 3:26–29 *The Message Bible*

But now you have arrived at your destination: By faith in Christ you are in direct relationship with God. Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ’s life, the fulfillment of God’s original promise. In Christ’s family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, since you are Christ’s family, then you are Abraham’s famous “descendant,” heirs according to the covenant promises.

 Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences. A catholic spirit is not indifference to all congregations. This is another sort of latitudinarianism, no less absurd and unscriptural than the former.”

*John Wesley,
“Catholic Spirit”*



Luke 18:11–13

The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’



“But it is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. See, they say, how they love one another, for they themselves are animated by mutual hatred. See, they say about us, how they are ready even to die for one another.”

Tertullian



Luke 10:33

**But a Samaritan while traveling came near him;
and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.**



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Philippians 2:3–4

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.



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