



## RELATE, DON'T CHECK OFF

MAY 27, 2024

**1 JOHN 3:18 NKJV – (18)** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Few were in religious settings. Instead, Jesus talked with people about spiritual issues where they were most familiar. He did not need a special environment or control over the circumstances to discuss things of eternal significance. Jesus asked questions in more than half of the conversations He had. This is similar to God's first response to the first sinners in history, when He asked four questions of Adam and Eve (**Genesis 3:9, 11, 13**).

Jesus connected with people's thoughts and feelings. He understood that new ideas need to be connected with existing frames of reference if they bare to last. He seldom pressed for "Closure" or a decision. Instead, He understood that time is required for ideas to simmer and for people to own them before they act on them.

What can we learn from Jesus' example?

- Jesus knew how to take initiative.
- Jesus responded to the initiative of others.
- Jesus left room in His schedule for interruptions by friends and others enlisting His help.
- Jesus usually met people on their turf.
- Jesus was interested in establishing common ground with others.

John addresses the importance for Christians to act on love, not just think about it. It is important to communicate love through our words, but we must also do so through our actions. Just as truly saving faith will produce good works, truly loving another person will produce loving actions. In other words, we show we really care. Not trying to see if they are interested in the local church membership, not trying to pursue their tithing methods but truly interested in them. The above verse uses the Greek root word Agape, meaning a selfless, sacrificial love.

**SCRIPTURE READING: EPHESIANS 4:2-3**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** People don't believe you care until you show them.