

## Do you love me?

I'll be honest, I don't know about many of you, but more often than not, when I hear and see the heading of our theological theme, in my mind it is meant to be sung, just like the Contours sang it. With intensity, with deep longing.

We know that it is Jesus who asks this question, so the song is not as though Jesus is desperate or that He is lacking something, but the way I see it is that He is calling us to love in that intensity, with our whole being as deeply as He loves us; as a priority before all other priorities, as He prioritizes us above all; as though love is the only thing we need to live a meaningful and fulfilling life and nothing can replace it. As He persevered in Love, even when there was agony and torment, injustice, corruption, He never ceased to Love. Love to the nth degree.

If we set that theme as a priority, as a core value in all we do, in our attitude, it will bring us to learn and discover that Love is the real motivator in life. That justice, service, education, leadership, forgiveness, formation, humility, meekness, hospitality, understanding, care, peace, equity, gratitude, presence, etc. starts to make more sense when we decide to live by Love first.

Imagine, if all the decisions we made were made out of Love, if our daily chores, duties, responsibilities, work were executed with Love, if our struggles, challenges, suffering, fears, conflicts were filtered through Love, if our expectations, our longing, our wants were first to Love, and if our prayer was to deepen our Love and to comprehend Love and to bask in Love... what a different world this would be. This is precisely the life Jesus invites us to in this question. The answer is up to each one of us.

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