

Rugged Love for The Wayward Soul

Dave Harvey

Profiles in the Struggle to Love

Rugged Love:

- *Strong enough to face evil;*
- *Tenacious enough to do good;*
- *Courageous enough to enforce consequences;*
- *Sturdy enough to be patient;*
- *Resilient enough to forgive;*
- *Trusting enough to pray boldly.*

Rugged Love Means:

A) Strong Enough To Face Evil....

- 1) Rom. 12: 9 "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil"
- 2) The gospel and rugged love

B) Tenacious Enough to Do Good

- 1) Love is made rugged by commitment to "not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).
- 2) Challenge: As a prodigal drifts from God, their world shrinks to self
- 3) Gospel tenderizes our heart for good works because reminds us, we are objects of mercy
 - (i) Luke 6: 34 - "Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, **for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.**"
 - (b) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "*Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.*"

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C) Courageous Enough To Enforce Consequences

1) Dan Allender, *"In order to repent, prodigals must feel pain!"*

(a) One father dealing with a 16 yr old wayward daughter:

- *"Eventually we had to realize that our vision for love was too small. It was confined to what we could control. If she stayed at home, we felt less anxious. But for some strange reason, the home had become this humungous stumbling block for her. Eventually we became convinced that we needed to show her a love courageous enough to impose consequences. So, with tears in our eyes, we asked her to leave."*

2) Core idea in book "Redemptive Release"

(a) Paradox: Sometimes God pursues us by releasing us. "Releasing" meaning to let them go;