



OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE · SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Love Like Jesus

Elder Ronald A. Rasband · Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Words to remember

- *“We cannot change their hearts, but He can; He is a God of miracles.”*
- *“Love is not stepping back or sanctioning others’ decisions and actions. Love is being interested in their lives, their successes, and their challenges.”*

In Elder Ronald A. Rasband’s own words, from the talk.

Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Quorum of the Twelve spoke to everyone whose heart aches for loved ones who’ve turned away from the Lord. Like Paul, we may feel “pressed out of measure.” If he asked for a show of hands, he said, hands would shoot up everywhere. He and Sister Rasband have felt this grief too, pondering the what-ifs and losing sleep.

Sometimes, he said, “We preach, cajole, argue, demand, lecture, ignore, sit them down to watch general conference, and even send them links to the talks, like this one, but to no avail.” Those efforts can even widen the gap. By design, everyone must choose for themselves to follow Jesus Christ.

In Lehi’s dream, multitudes pressed toward the tree of life, the love of God. But a mist of darkness came, and some wandered into the great and spacious building. Satan’s deceit leads to confusion and misery. He can promise no life eternal, no life with God the Father, and no peace. Not now, not ever.

The answer is in the Old Testament: “Be not afraid nor dismayed ... ; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.” Elder Rasband asked us to turn our despair over to Jesus Christ. “We cannot change their hearts, but He can; He is a God of miracles.” Our loved ones are first of all children of our Father in Heaven, who loves them even more than we do. Through the Atonement, there is always a way back. Jesus says to all who grieve, “I’ve got this!”

Love is the heart of His gospel. Elder Rasband taught, “Love can positively influence those who have strayed.” Love isn’t approving of every choice. He said, “Love is being interested in their lives, their successes, and their challenges. Love is being there with arms outstretched and a cheerful countenance.” President Dallin H. Oaks counseled, “Let us avoid what is harsh and hateful.” Holiness comes as we are charitable, patient, forgiving, and kind.

Love is also expressed in prayer. Alma the Younger rebelled, until an angel declared that the Lord had heard the prayers of his servant Alma, who is thy father. Alma had prayed for years. During three days

of torment, young Alma remembered his father's teachings about Jesus and cried, "O Jesus, thou Son of God, have mercy on me." He became a mighty prophet.

Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me," our Savior says, "and ye shall find rest unto your souls." He has already paid for the sins of all God's children, including those we worry about. "He knows them. He knows their hearts; He loves them. He gave His very life to bring them home, all the way home." When the prodigal son was still far off, his father ran to him. What brought him back? "It was love. He knew where to find it."

Elder Rasband offered three suggestions. First, Let go of any guilt. We fail only when we give up, so never, never give up on those you love. Second, follow President Thomas S. Monson: "Never let a problem to be solved become more important than a person to be loved." "Third, remember Jesus Christ is the answer." Seek Him through scriptures and prophets, and pray mightily.

He promised as an Apostle that when the devil's storms pull loved ones off course, they shall have no power to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless woe because of the rock upon which ye are built. If that rock is Jesus Christ, trust him. He's got this.

Scripture to look up: Matthew 22:37–39. The two great commandments, love God and love our neighbor, guide how we reach out to loved ones who have stepped away.

Let's talk about it

What did this talk teach us about the Savior? What is one small thing our family can do this week?

Kid-friendly summary in our own words · Read or watch the full talk: [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/210rasband](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/210rasband)