

**This Love Breaks the Rules  
A Church That Pleases God – Part 5  
March 22, 2026**

**1 John 4:8 (NIV)** *“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*

**A church that pleases God is made up of  
people who love like Jesus.**

**John 13:34-35 (NIV)** *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”*

**Mark 2:1-5 (NIV)** *“A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that He had come home. <sup>2</sup> They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and He preached the Word to them. <sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”*

**The paralyzed man may have been in poor health,  
but he was rich in relationships.**

- **A loving church carries burdens.**

**Mark 2:3 (NIV)** *“Some men came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.”*

**Galatians 6:2 (NIV)** *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”*

**Love doesn't just point people to Jesus; it carries them to Him.**

**The church (you and me) is called to care.  
The church (you and me) is called to love.**

**Every single one of us has the potential to love like Jesus.**

**When the church carries burdens,  
people experience the love of God.**

- **Love breaks the rules to serve and save people.**

**Mark 2:4 (NIV)** *“Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.”*

**Mark 2:5 (NIV)** *“When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”*

**Jesus saw their faith in actions expressed through love.**

**Mark 2:8-12 (NIV)** *“Immediately Jesus knew in His spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and He said to them, ‘Why are you thinking these things?’<sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’<sup>10</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.’ So He said to the man,<sup>11</sup> ‘I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.’<sup>12</sup> He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, ‘We have never seen anything like this!’”*

**What rules do you need to break to bring someone to Jesus?**

**Jonah 1:3a (NIV)** *“But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port.”*

**God will sometimes break the rules to get your attention.**

**Jonah 1:17 (NIV)** *“Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”*

**Jonah 2:10 (NIV)** *“And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.”*

**Jonah 3:10 (NIV)** *“When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He relented and did not bring on them the destruction He had threatened.”*

**Jonah 4:2 (NIV)** *“He prayed to the Lord, ‘Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.’”*

**Most of us have someone we love who needs Jesus.**

**God wants you to help them know Him.**

**What are you willing to do to help make that happen?**

**Would you dig a hole in a roof?**

**Most of us need to make room in our hearts for people that we don't like that need God's love.**

**You need to break the rules to love people.**

**It's all about the one!**