

Small Group Discussion Questions - Fall Semester // Week Four

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) What is one of your favourite "classic" or "old" movies of all time? What do you like about this movie? Which modern-day movies do you think will be a classic one day?
- b) Do you write handwritten letters for your friends and family? When was the last time that you personally received a handwritten letter in the mail?

Passage and Discussion

Read 1 John 2:7-17

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) When you look back on your life, can you think of a few significant "choices" that you have made? Looking back, how did these choices change your life in a meaningful way?
- c) In verses 1 and 2, John makes a distinction between the old and new commands. As Richard explained on Sunday, the command to love each other has taken on new meaning in Christ. How did Christ's life and example change the way that we are called to love each other? How did Christ's resurrection change the command to love each other?
- d) On Sunday, Richard taught that "love for God and love for His commands motivates us to love our neighbours". How would you explain the connection between our love for God and our love for our neighbour? How is loving one another an "indication of our spiritual status"?
- e) Our world should know that we are Christians by the way that we love each other? Would you say that this kind of love characterizes the Church today? How can we grow in our ability to love each other well?
- f) How can our failure to love our brothers and sisters in Christ create a stumbling block for others, especially those who aren't Christians? How have you seen this pattern happen in your own life?
- g) Richard made the point that the world recognizes the need for love. What is the difference between how the Church expresses love, and how the world expresses love? How should we be different than the world around us?

- h) Read John 13:34. How does our idea of love change, when we read the command to love 'as Christ has loved us'? What comes to mind when you think of loving others in this way?
- i) In verse 9, John makes a connection between living in darkness and hating our brother or sister. Why do you think this connection is so important? Why do you think 'walking in the light' and 'hating our brother/sister' are mutually exclusive?
- j) On Sunday, Richard made a simple statement: we have a choice. We can choose to walk in the light, or we can choose to walk in the darkness. What are a few practical examples of how we can choose to walk in the light in our own lives?
- k) Richard reminded us that Satan is a liar, and He wishes for us to believe that we can live "on the fence" - one foot in the light, and one foot in the darkness. How can we keep ourselves from this way of lukewarm living? How can accountability help us to stay on the right path?
- l) In verse 17, John reminds us of the eternal perspective we are meant to have as we grow in our personal relationship with God. How does knowing that this world will pass away change the way that we live in it? How should this truth shape our lifestyle and our priorities?
- m) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) This week, take a few minutes to reflect on your love for the Church. Are you intentionally and actively seeking ways to show love to your brothers and sister in Christ? How can you better reflect Christ through loving others in your everyday life?
- b) On Sunday, Richard invited us to reflect on the love we have for Jesus - the more love we have for Him, the more love we will have for our fellow believers. This week, take a few minutes to examine your heart, and your love for Christ - how can you grow in your love for Him in your everyday life?

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to 'check-in' about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) As a group, spend a few minutes praying for this new series that we are walking through as a church. Pray that God would use it to help each of us become more like Him, and to help our church become more like the community He wants us to be.