

Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 3, 2021

1 John 2:3-11 – Love is the Measuring Stick

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- Can you think of something you currently love that you didn't use to like?
- What changed to make you love that thing?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking over your notes from this past teaching... was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

MAIN POINT

If we are having fellowship with God, if we are abiding in Jesus, our lives should be filled with love for others.

DIGGING INTO THE WORD

- Which would you say is more prominent in our culture today... LOVE or HATE?
- Why do you think that is so?
- What do you think provokes hatred in people?
- Do you think it's possible to stop hating someone just by trying real hard?

Read – 1 John 2:3-5

- What does John point to as EVIDENCE of KNOWING GOD?
- Do you think this means we become perfect? (see 1 John 1:8)

Read – Matthew 22:37-40

- What did Jesus say are God's commandments?
- How does this understanding of God's commandments relate to John's point in 1 John 2:3-5?

Read – 1 John 2:6

- What do you think it means to walk as Jesus walked?

Read – John 15:4-5

- What do John and Jesus point to as the key to “walking as Jesus walked”?

Read – Galatians 5:22-23

Pastor Nate shared, the FRUIT (singular) of the Spirit is LOVE. Then love displays itself through those other characteristics.

- Where does Galatians say this FRUIT/LOVE comes from?
- If we struggle to love others, is trying harder the answer? Why or why not?

Read – 1 John 2:7-11

- Which comes first... receiving God's love for ourselves, or loving others?
- Why is it important that we receive God's love for ourselves before we attempt to love others?

Pastor Nate shared that the word “HATE” means to have a dislike or resentment towards someone else.

- How does our world encourage harboring resentment towards others?
- What makes it difficult for us to be honest with ourselves about whether or not we are holding on to resentment?
- In what ways can we excuse away our resentment for others?
- Why does God want us to stop resenting other people? (see 1 John 1:4)

TAKING IT HOME

- Take some time and ask God to show you if you are harboring resentment towards someone that God wants you to forgive and love.

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS