



God's Love & Justice

March 26 & 29, 2026

Ice Breaker

What's something you love that might surprise others in the group? (For example, a unique hobby, an unusual food, or an unexpected type of music)

Key Verses

- 1 John 4:9-10 (NASB)
- Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)
- Matthew 9:35-36 (NASB)
- Psalm 103:13 (NASB)
- 2 Peter 3:9 (NASB)
- Exodus 34:6-7 (NASB)
- Romans 6:23 (NASB)
- John 3:16-17 (NASB)
- Romans 5:8 (NASB)

Questions

1. How has your understanding of God's love been influenced by cultural definitions of love? What differences do you see between cultural love and biblical love?
2. The pastor mentioned that God's benevolent love seeks our ultimate welfare rather than what we might think is good for us. Can you think of a time when God's "no" to something you wanted turned out to be better for you?
3. What's the difference between grace and mercy as described in the sermon? How have you experienced both in your relationship with God?
4. How does understanding God's patience and persistence change the way you view your own failures and struggles with sin?

5. Why do you think justice is often left out when people describe God's love? How does including justice actually enhance rather than diminish God's love?
6. The sermon states that love without justice is not love at all. How do you see this principle playing out in human relationships (parenting, friendships, etc.)?
7. How does the cross demonstrate all five attributes of God's love working together? Which attribute speaks to you most personally right now?
8. Romans 5:8 says Christ died for us while we were still sinners. How does this truth impact your understanding of God's love for you personally?

Life Application

This week, spend time each day reflecting on one of the five attributes of God's love (benevolence, grace, mercy, persistence, and justice) leading up to Good Friday. Consider how you've experienced each one personally, and ask God to help you extend these same qualities to others in your relationships. Also, take time to remember the cross daily - not just as a historical event, but as the ultimate demonstration of God's complete love for you.

Key Takeaways

1. God's love must be defined by its biblical attributes, not cultural definitions of love
2. The five attributes of God's love are: benevolence (seeking our ultimate welfare), grace (unmerited favor), mercy (compassion in our mess), persistence (patient long-suffering), and justice (God's inability to ignore sin)
3. Justice is not contrary to love but is actually a loving attribute - love without justice is merely sentimentality
4. The cross of Christ is the greatest demonstration of how all aspects of God's love work together perfectly
5. God loved us and made a way for us while we were still sinners - His love is not dependent on our performance

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for demonstrating the fullness of Your love through Your sacrifice on the cross. Help us to never take for granted the incredible love You have shown us - a love that is benevolent, gracious, merciful, persistent, and just. As we go through this week, remind us daily of what You did for us while we were still sinners. Help us to love others with this same kind of complete, biblical love. Transform our hearts to reflect Your love more fully, and give us opportunities to share this amazing love with those around us. We are so grateful for Your love that saved us and continues to sustain us. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.