

Be the Body: Love One Another (John 13, 15)

Sermon Discussion Guide

This week's sermon reminded us that the foundation of our life together as the church is the sacrificial love of Jesus. Christ's love is faithful, humble, and costly – a love that we are called to embody and emulate. But how is that possible? We need an example, a personal experience, and then the empowerment of the Holy Spirit so that we can live out the love of Christ.

Opening

- The sermon began with the example of the setup team serving behind the scenes. Why is it often easier to be impressed by miracles or dramatic displays of power than by small, sacrificial acts of love?
- What are some specific, ordinary ways that you see the love of Jesus shown in our GCG or church?

The Love of Christ Exemplified (John 13:1-17)

- Jesus' humble love is shown in this passage. Recount "who Jesus is" so far in the gospel. How does the context of chapters 1-12 make the footwashing so surprising?
- Think of a time when someone in your life modeled this kind of love for you (faithful, humble, costly). How did it impact you?

The Love of Christ Experienced (John 13:8-11)

- Jesus told Peter, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Why must we first be loved by Christ before we can truly love like Christ?
- Sometimes we feel dirty or condemned even after Christ has made us clean. In addition to the reminders we heard (Jesus loves you personally, cleanses you fully, and vindicates you completely), what truths or practices help you fight against those lies?

The Love of Christ Empowered (John 15:5, 12)

- In John 15, Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing." How do we practically rely on Jesus rather than our own strength when seeking to love others?
- Acts describes the early church as "turning the world upside down" through acts of Spirit-empowered sacrificial love. What might that look like in our lives? What small, sacrificial acts of love could we practice in our daily lives to show the world the love of Jesus?