



I have a question

January 30, 2022

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TEACHING OVERVIEW

This week Pastor Ken finished our “Hey God... I Have A Question” series with the question, “if love is love, then what is love?” In his message, Pastor Ken explained that God is characterized by unconditional and undeserved love. He also taught that God is the only one who can truly define and set the standard for love. Because of this, we should surrender our own ideas about what love might be or feel like and wholeheartedly embrace God’s definition of love. This kind of true, unconditional love is what we receive as a gift from God and then share with others through selfless acts of service that glorify God.

Encouragement

God loves us unconditionally, even when we are unlovable. When we experience failure or disobey God it can be easy to become discouraged and wonder if God could really love us. But we can be encouraged by the fact that God loves us unconditionally and undeservedly. God not only tells us this, but also demonstrates this by giving His life for us.

Scripture & Discussion

Read: 1 John 4:7-10

Discuss

1. 1 John 4 says that God is love. Pastor Ken explained that love is God’s character and nature. Because of this, we can only know what love is by knowing who God is. Spend time talking as a group about what it means for love to be God’s nature and character. Read some of the scriptures Pastor Ken shared about love. How does this help us to understand love?

2. In this week’s teaching, Pastor Ken talked about how different people and cultures have various ideas about the meaning of love. Although there may be some truth to popular descriptions of love, we can only know what true love is by knowing how God defines and demonstrates it. What are some ways you have heard people try to describe or explain love? Spend time discussing false definitions of love that we may need to surrender in order to embrace the Bible’s definition of love.



Scripture & Discussion

Read: [1 Corinthians 14:4-7](#) & [1 John 3:18-19](#)

Discuss

3. These two passages provide a description of God's standard for love. Pastor Ken explained that this standard of love calls us to selflessly seek the best interests of others. Some of these aspects of love may come naturally to you, but others may be more difficult. Can you think of a time when another Christian served and loved you in a way that demonstrated selfless love? Discuss ideas for how you can practically love people in different areas of life.

4. Pastor Ken taught that love must be demonstrated through actions because that's how Christ loved us. Because of this, we shouldn't wait until we "feel like" loving someone. Instead, we should intentionally choose to serve other people in love. By doing this, we can bring glory to God by modeling His perfect and unconditional love. Take time as a group to discuss how we can intentionally love other people even when it's difficult. Pastor Ken said, "God's work in you allows you to love someone even when you don't feel like they deserve it". Have you found this to be true in your life? Can you give an example? Our love for God and one another (our spiritual fruit) demonstrates growth in our life. Read [1 Corinthians 13:11](#) and talk about how biblical love brings an expectation of growth.

Prayer

Pastor Ken told us that we should seek to love a family member, a coworker, and a neighbor this week. By doing this, we can share God's love with them and ultimately bring God glory. This will look different for each person in your Group. Use this time to pray that God would give each person in your Group wisdom and discernment as they consider who they should reach out to this week. Pray that God would give each person the strength and boldness they need to selflessly love those around them even when their love may not be reciprocated. Also use this time in prayer to thank God for the unconditional love that He reveals and extends to us.

Next Steps

Pastor Ken told us it's easy to talk about loving others, but often hard to actually take action and seek to love those around us. He also encouraged us to commit to love a family member, a coworker, and a neighbor in a practical way this week. Take time today to consider who you should intentionally seek to love and what you can do to demonstrate your love through actions. You may find it helpful to write down the three people you want to love or tell someone else so that they can encourage you as you take this next step.

Our Group's semester is almost ready to kick-off! Check out the Group directory this week and share it with someone you know who may be needing to take this next step: [Group Directory](#).