

Session 6 Loving Others: By Seeing God's Glory (Jn. 15:12; 17:22)

I. REVIEW: THE PRIORITY OF LOVE

- A. Review: God is love (1 Jn. 4:16). The very being of God is wholehearted love. Wholehearted love is of first importance in God's personality and in all relationships in His kingdom. The love burning in God's heart has at least five distinct expressions that are deeply interrelated.
1. ***God's love for God***: Each person in the Trinity intensely loves the others with all their heart.
 2. ***God's love for His people***: He loves His people with all of His heart, mind, and strength.
 3. ***Our love for God***: God's very own love is imparted to His people by the Spirit (Rom. 5:5).
 4. ***Our love for ourselves***: We love ourselves in God's love and for God's sake.
 5. ***Our love for others***: We love others in the overflow of experiencing God's love (1 Jn. 4:19).
- B. God loves us with the same intensity that God loves God (Jn. 15:9; 17:23). Abiding in love includes taking the initiative to love others. He *empowers* us to love others by receiving His love and His sacred commission to express His love to people that He loves like the Father loves Him. Do not passively wait, with a spirit of *entitlement*, for someone to pursue and befriend you.
- ⁹***“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love...¹²This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (Jn. 15:9-12)***
- C. The Father had a deep desire to have a family that experiences and expresses His love with one another. He fashioned the human heart with a deep sense of wanting to belong (Gen. 2:18). Jesus is committed to blessing kingdom communities of believers called the local church.
- ¹⁸***“...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Mt 16:18-19)***
- ²⁷***...that He might present her to Himself a glorious church... (Eph. 5:27)***
- D. The NT community resulted from people pursuing a common vision and values together. The majority of the believers together embraced a lifestyle which included being committed to receiving the Word, godly fellowship, breaking bread, prayer, and outreach (Acts 2:42-45). Some today lack revelation of God's purpose and thus, they embrace a “churchless Christianity.”
- ²⁵***...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb. 10:25)***

II. HELPING PEOPLE SEE THE GLORY OF GOD IN THEIR LIFE

- A. Our unity is directly proportionate to how much we see of God's glory in the person of Jesus, in our life, and in the lives of the redeemed. God's people experience His glory in three stages—we experience a measure of His glory at our new birth (Rom. 6:4-5; Col. 3:3-4), a greatly increased measure in the end-time revival (Eph. 5:27), and full measure in the age to come (2 Cor. 4:17).
- ²²***The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one. (Jn. 17:22)***

- B. The greatest problem in the Church today is a *low view of God*, which is inevitably followed by a *low view of salvation*, resulting in a *low view of God's people*. The redeemed are crowned with glory and honor by being united to Jesus' heart and glory by virtue of His cross and resurrection. A high view of God and His glory will lead to a high view of who the redeemed are in Christ.

⁷*You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands...*

¹⁰*It was fitting for Him [the Father]...in bringing many sons to glory..." (Heb. 2:7-10)*

- C. Paul's prayer included the Lord allowing us to see how He sees and values others (Eph. 1:18). I encourage us to pray, "Lord, let me see and feel what You see and feel in my brother." As we see even a small measure of God's glory in a person's life, we are to speak it to them. God speaks many things to us through the words of other believers who are sensitive to the Spirit.

¹⁷*...the Father of glory may give to you...revelation in the knowledge of Him...¹⁸that you may know...what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints... (Eph. 1:17-18)*

²³*...that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴even us whom He called... (Rom. 9:23-24)*

- D. The vast majority of our obedience, love, and service to Jesus consists of very small acts that are usually unnoticed by others, and thus their importance to Jesus is greatly underestimated by us.

¹⁷*"Well done...because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities." (Lk. 19:17)*

¹⁰*"For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven [eyes of the Lord] rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD..." (Zech. 4:10)*

- E. The glory of our life in Christ is veiled from our eyes (Col. 3:1-5). You died—your old life, failure, and identity outside of Christ is dead. The full truth of our life is now hidden from us. The beauty that Jesus possesses is the very beauty that He gives His people (Ps. 90:17). As we speak of that beauty to others, we empower them to overcome the spirit of heaviness (Isa. 61:3).

³*For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God ⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (Col 3:3-4)*

- F. We are to see one another according to who they are in the Spirit (or in God's eyes), not the flesh. This is an essential part of loving and pursuing others in the way Jesus loves us (Jn. 15:12).

¹⁴*For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died...¹⁶Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. (2 Cor. 5:14-16)*

III. QUESTIONS FOR SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION (*i.e.*, FCF FRIENDSHIP GROUPS)

1. Which point in this session would you like more understanding of?
2. Which point most inspired or challenged you? Why? What will you do differently to apply it?
3. Which point do you want to impart to a younger believer? Why? How will you elaborate on it?
4. What is one point in this session that needs to be emphasized to the larger Body of Christ? Why?