

The Defining Characteristic

I Peter 1:22–25

1. We should love _____

2. We should love _____

3. We should love _____

Application



We are glad you have joined us today to worship. We want you to know that we have prayerfully planned this time together and that we do “church” on purpose.

Our mission is to **reach** people with the gospel message of Jesus Christ, **teach** people to become devoted disciples of His, **equip** people for acts of service, and **send** them into ministry.

As you join us today, we ask that you, also be intentional in your worship of God and purposefully focus on your relationship with Him.

God Bless you as we follow Him together. — Dr. Steven A. Crane

Group Questions

1. If a non-Christian asked you to characterize the Christian life, how would you answer?

Read I Peter 1:13–25

2. Quick Review: What commands does Peter give in verses 13–16? What reasons does Peter give in verses 17–21 that can help believers be obedient to God and to live holy lives?

3. What does it mean to have purified your soul? Can you accomplish this on your own? (See 1 Peter 1:3, 8–9, 18–19) Why is obeying the truth a key part of being purified and living the Christian life?

4. How would you define “sincere brotherly love”? What does insincere love look like? Share an example if you can.

5. What does it mean to “love one another deeply”? How does “loving deeply” compare and contrast to “sincere brotherly love”? What are some ways you can demonstrate this kind of love to others?

6. Is it possible to love sincerely, deeply, and from a pure heart without God’s help? What reminder does Peter give in verse 23 that loving this way is only possible through Christ?

7. Have you ever loved someone to the point where it was expensive? ... inconvenient? ... difficult?

8. Did this kind of love make a difference in the person you loved? ... in you? What one thing does Jesus tell his disciples should characterize the Christian life? (Read John 13:34–35)

9. How does loving each other, more than anything else, really communicate to the world that Christianity is authentic?

Next Steps

☐ I am thankful that Jesus loves me, and I want the love of Christ to be the defining characteristic of my life.

☐ This week I want to show my love to others authentically, consistently, and purely.

☐ This week, I will demonstrate my love for Christ by _____.