

## Sermon Discussion Questions:

Becoming a People of Love; Ephesians 5:1-2

**Main Idea:** As beloved children of the Father, we must follow the example of Jesus by living a life of costly sacrificial love that draws others into a deeper awareness and understanding of God's great love for them (personally).

**Launching Question:** Besides your relationship with God and His Word, what else do you think shapes the way you see "love" and how does this impact you negatively and/or positively?

### Discussion Questions:

- We all are quick to Receive God's love, why are we slower to Reflect that love onto others around us? In what ways do you personally struggle to love others like Jesus does?
- How does our position as a beloved child of God impact the perspective and purpose we should have on our lives?
- Before we can imitate God and love others, what must we do and why is this true? (*Truth from sermon: The first step to loving others, is that we take the big concept of God's steadfast love and remind ourselves that it is also an intimate and personal love for me and for you*)
- In what ways has God loved you lately, that you wish others would know and experience?

### Application Questions:

- Truth: What makes love distinctively Christian love, is that it's a willing sacrificial love that's end purpose is always to draw others into a deeper awareness and understanding of God's great love for them. Questions:
  - How do you need to grow in living in willing sacrificial love for others, as you remember the willing sacrificial love of Jesus for you personally?
  - How do you need to shift the way you love others so that its end is to draw them deeper into an awareness and understanding of God's great love for them personally? (*How can we do a better job with word or deed to show why we are loving them and that God does too? People need more than "good vibes" and "well wishes"*)
- Truth: Walking in love means we actively break down walls and build bridges, so that we can go meet people where they are to love and care for them. Question: Who in your life feels like war instead of peace that God is calling you to pursue in willing sacrificial love for reconciliation purposes? How can we pray or help you?
- How can our group practically and specifically imitate God to the lost?
- How can our group practically and specifically imitate God to the poor or hurting around us?
- How can our group practically and specifically imitate God by loving the faith family at Cornerstone? With visitors on Sundays?

### Prayer as led based on discussion

- Confess out loud or in your heart-
  - Who is God putting on your heart right now to love better? How can we pray specifically right now?
  - Is there anyone in our faith family at Cornerstone that is hard for you to love? Confess that in your heart, and while we pray join us by asking God how you can imitate His pursuing love in some small way.
- Read and pray Psalm 115:1, specifically that the way you love people would not shine a light on us, but rather on God. Not to us, not to us, but to your name be the glory!