

Home Improvements: Love Celebrates Others

March 14, 2021

Scriptures: 1 Cor. 13:4-5; James 4:1-2; Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:10

Bottom Line: Our insecurities keep us from loving and celebrating others

What Love Doesn't Do - 1 Cor. 13:4-5

- Love is not jealous, boastful, proud, dishonourable, self-seeking, easily angered, and keeps no record of being wronged
- Basically, love is not selfish

Why Do We Fight? - James 4:1-2

- James says that we get into arguments and fights with others because we don't get what we want
- Everybody wants to be secure in their identity and value: to be loved
- When we feel insecure, we focus on ourselves, our needs, our wants
- It's impossible to love others well when we feel insecure in who we are

Find Your Security in God, Not People

- When we try to find security in people, we ask more of them than they can give us. This damages relationships.
- Only God can give us security in our identity and value. And once we have that security, we are free to truly love others.

What Love Does - Phil. 2:3-4; Rom. 12:10

- In other letters, Paul gives us an opposing list that shows that love is other centered.
- Basically, love celebrates others. It lets them shine, it builds them up, and it's not threatened by their success.

The Difference in our Homes

- How would your home look different if you weren't insecure? How can your home become a place where others are celebrated?

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. Where do your insecurities lie? Where are you afraid you don't measure up? Is there a greater fear underneath that?
3. How do you try to find your security, value, or identity in the people around you?
4. Read **Ephesians 1:3-14**. List all the things God says about you in this passage. What does this tell you about your value and identity? Do you believe those things?
5. How can you celebrate someone in your home this week?