

LOVE!

Opening Announcements

Opening Prayer

Q: What is "love"? Somebody define it.....

Q: Why is love so powerful?

Q: What is "hate"?

Q: How is "love" and "hate" related?

Table Time....

READ: John 3:16-21 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Q: According to verse 16, what's God's motive?

Q: How is "giving His only Son", loving?

Q: What's the promise God holds out in verse 16? Why is this "good news"?

Q: Who needs this "good news"?

Q: What's "good" about verse 17? How should THAT impact us?

Q: What is important about verse 18? How is THIS good news? What reality does this reveal?

Q: What is God's "judgment" in verse 19? How do you see that today?

Q: How have you seen verse 20 in the world (or even in your own life/experience)?

Q: What is the "good news" in verse 21? How does that last part "so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God" have to do with our "witness"?

Big Group Debrief.....

Q: What did your table get from this text?

Q: Are there any questions or revelations you would like to ask or share?

Q: What's a take away?

READ: John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Q: Why is love a powerful "witness"?

Q: Why is love the primary "mark" (witness) of a disciple?

READ: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Q: According to this, what IS love?

Q: What IF, you replaced the word "love" with the Name Jesus? Is that an accurate description of Him?

Q: SO, when Jesus calls us to "love", what is He calling us to? Why?

Q: What happens when our life doesn't reflect true love? What happens?

Q: What's the solution when this happens?

Q: Is "love" hard? Why?

Q: Is "love" worth it? Why?

Q: When you're seeking to align your life, thoughts, actions and attitude to God's love, do you do this on your "own" OR does God work in and through His love to transform your life?

Q: Why is God's grace essential? AND why is His grace and mercy expressions of His love?

HOMEWORK: Spend time this week considering how your life witnesses to His love.