

## That Love

### Love that does not Practice Sinning

#### 1 John 3:4-10

## TALK IT OVER

#### Study Description

Many people like the idea of love, but the word can mean many things to many people. True love is more than a sentimental feeling. It's a love that discerns, it's a love that does not practice sin, and it's a love that will be rejected by the world but will overcome the world. Ultimately, it flows from "That Love" that comes to us from Jesus (1 John 4:10), and hopefully leads us to say, "I want to embody 'that love.'" We'll be looking at John's letters to see what true love looks like and how we can show the world that love.

#### Passages

*"Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother." – 1 John 3:4-10 (ESV)*

#### Process this past week together. (15 Min)

- Was there any one thing that you most agreed with or disagreed with from last weekend's message? What was it and why?

#### Head: Think about the text and discuss. (10 Min)

- Read 1 John 3:4-10. How is practicing sin a rejection of God's love?
- How is sin considered lawlessness?
- John says, "No one who abides in him keeps on sinning." What do you think of that? Do you agree or disagree with John? Why or why not?

#### Heart: Share how the text shapes your beliefs. (10 Min)

- Does this text bring you conviction or comfort? Why?
- Think of a time you were outwardly in sin and compare it to a time when you were outwardly serving the Lord. What were some of the differences in your actions and how you felt about them?
- When was a time that the love of God turned you away from sin?

#### Hands: Live out the text. (10 Min)

- What does practicing righteousness look like in today's context?
- Is there a brother or sister in Christ that has been struggling with sin lately? Find time this week to call them, take them out for coffee and share the Good News with them based on this text.

#### Pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

***For Trios questions see the back of this page***

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**Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. Pick a question. (15 Min)**

1. Who is one non-believer or someone without a church home that you need to reach out to this week?
2. What kind of conversations are you having with people you are reaching out to?
3. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
4. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.