

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

**"THIS IS LOVE" | EASTER 2022 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL**

## **WARM-UP QUESTION:**

***What is the best love song?***

## ***"It's a Love Not Based on Your Performance"***

Pastor Brian points out God validates based on relationship, not on performance or accomplishment. **Why is that hard to accept for many people? How can someone learn to allow God to validate them instead of something else?**

## ***"It's a Love Oriented Towards Someone"***

Agape Love is a love pointed or aimed at others and for others. It's the kind of love that Jesus has for all people. **If people truly believed that about God, how would that impact their view of what the Bible commands? Of what God allows in their life?**

## ***"It's a Love for Today"***

In Romans 8:38-39 it says nothing in the past, present or future can separate people from God's love. It is constant and unchanging. **Which is easier to believe, God's love in the past, present or future? Most difficult?**

## **REFLECTION QUESTION:**

Timothy Keller was quoted "It's one thing to believe God loves you, another thing to actually feel His love". Like any relationship, being with God takes time and being vulnerable and making yourself available and open to Him. **How available have you been to God lately? Make it a point this week to remove distractions and to focus on Him.**

Easter 2022

4-17-22

## This Is Love

### I. Slide1 Intro:

A. I liked Jamal's line, *The resurrection is beautiful we all join in this musical.*

1. After 3 days in a dark hole, I picture Jesus stepping into Easter sunrise w/a warm smile and a heart fueled by perfect-unstoppable-love.

B. Love is God's selfless gift of *Himself* to you this morning, in Jesus Christ.

1. The Good News is a story of love, hope and power that kept a brutal sacrifice from being the end. Truly, it's just the beginning...

C. **Prayer:** Lord, what a great subject we have this morning, *res love*. We know it was love not nails that held your son Jesus to the tree. Love that kept you in the tomb on Sat, & a love that bust-out on Sun morn. *A weekend that proved Your love. The weekend that saved the world.*

D. **Title:** *THIS IS LOVE* ... What is Love??? (we could say it's His *life, death, burial, res*)

1. It's a love *not* based on your Performance.
2. It's a love Oriented Towards Someone.
3. It's a love for Today.

### II. SlideX IT'S A LOVE NOT BASED ON YOUR PERFORMANCE

A. *Eg. A voice from heaven at Jesus' baptism (b4 His ministry even started) - He got the trophy before he showed up to practice.*

1. God doesn't validate *based on performance*, but on *relationship*.
2. God doesn't validate *what Jesus would do*, but on *who He was*.

a) Jesus *did not perform His ministry* for *Acceptance*.

3. **We** must learn how to receive *the Validation of God* ... each day, **OR** "we will need from people what they are *not* capable of giving us!"

a) *How* are *they* going to accept you unconditionally, when often times they don't even like themselves.

- b) Be **validated** each day, hearing from the Father, *this is my beloved son/daughter in whom I am well pleased*. Or as one bible put it, *This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life!*

### III. SlideX IT'S A LOVE ORIENTED TOWARDS SOMEONE

- A. The biblical word **love**/agape is something that **reflects its orientation** towards another. (i.e. It's not self-love. It's a love *towards* another)
1. **Orientation** (from *orient* = rising or East). **Oriented** = showing the direction in which something is aimed. [when hiking you *orient* yourself w/a **compass**]
    - a) **Agape love** is always *oriented* towards **others**.
- B. SlideX Pictures of Jesus foot washing [Foot Washing Series: *Salt & Light*]
1. What I **do not** know, any of these individuals relationships w/Christ. What I **do** know, is that Jesus **so loves** each of them, so deeply.
  2. God doesn't validate *based on performance*, but on **relationship**.
  3. Do you have **relationship** with the **Father**? Are you friend **or** family? Become part of **His family** today!

### IV. SlideX IT'S A LOVE FOR TODAY

- A. Rev.1:4,5 **Grace and peace** to you from *the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come*; from the sevenfold **Spirit** before his throne; 5 and from **Jesus Christ**. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead (referring to His historic resurrection), and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him **who loves us** and has freed us from our sins **by** shedding his blood for us.
- B. It's an **ocean** full of love. It's a **perpetual present** love.
1. Yes God's love **was** for us **before** the worlds were made. A love that caused Christ to *empty Himself & become obedient to the death of the cross*
  2. And yes, there **will be** love towards us in the **future**. Think, *the love of the Bridegroom towards us His bride*. Rev.19

3. **But stop for a minute.** It's easy for me to believe that *God loved me in the past*. That God will *love me in the future*.

What I wanna know is, does he love me **now**? **Me**, for who *I really am*. **Not** for what I do for Him, **or** might do in the future for Him.

**Right now**, with all of my *flaws, dysfunctions, mistakes, impurities, and brokenness*. Does He love me **now**?

a) I didn't entitle my message *This Was Love*, or *This Will Be Love*, **but This Is Love**.

4. I find it's harder for me to *trust Him* with this **Now Love**. Because I compare it to my love. I've loved others in the past **that** I don't love today. **And** I might promise to love you in the future, **but** let's wait and see.

5. I believe in His **now love** when I'm *satisfied and gratified*, **or** while I'm enjoying *my health*. **When** the sun is shining. **When** it's a happy day.

a) **But** it's a little more difficult when *my sky is overcast*, and all I see before me is *a tangled jungle* full of trouble, difficulties, and suffering.

6. **But** what we're talking about is *the unchanging love of Christ*. Where His love is a constant. *Jesus the same yesterday, today, & forever*, which means, *if He is love*, **then** His love is the same *yesterday, today, forever*.

a) Rom.8:35 msg *Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: ... None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us.*

7. *It's one thing to believe* God loves you, *another thing to actually feel* his love. *It's one thing to believe* he's present with you. *It's another to actually experience* His presence. Timothy Keller

C. **Prayer:** Lord, **Your Love** Conquered death. **Your Love** forgives sin. **Your Love** makes all things new. **Your Love** loves to give love.

#### D. Invitation:

E. **Wrap up:** We have pastors that will be upfront with **Bibles** if you do not have one.

*We also have flyers for:*

1. **Baptism classes** April 24th **or** 27th; **Baptism** is May 1st.
2. **Starting Point** (to **welcome** and **orient** you to our church) with pastor Tony Sun, May 15th.
3. **Fresh Faith Class** for **Newer Believers**, May 22-July 10 (during 2nd service).

F. **Last thought:** John 15:9 Jesus said, *I have loved you even as the Father has loved me.* (what?) *Remain in my love.*

G. Keywords: love, resurrection, Jesus, God, baptism, believe, cross, death, heaven, salvation, sin.

H. The resurrection of Jesus is not just an historical fact; it's also a *lifestyle*.

1. He didn't *overcome death on our behalf so that* we can *go to heaven*.  
*Instead*, He *overcame death on her behalf so that* we might live a *new, vibrant, abundant, radical, and revolutionary resurrection life ... Today!*