

## Love... Is It In You?

### A gut check:

1 John 2:8-14

Christianity is a claim proven by our **OBEDIENCE**  
and **LOVE FOR OTHERS**.

The life of Christ will produce **OBEDIENCE** like His  
and **LOVE** like His.

It is hard to love others when we are:

**RIGHT**

**DOING GOD'S WORK**

**HURT**

The path of spiritual growth is:

**FORGIVENESS** and **ADOPTION**

Getting in the **WORD** until the **WORD** is in us

Overcoming our **SINS**

Walking in the **WORD** and **SPIRIT**

Knowing **GOD**

### Avoiding the fool's choice:

1 John 2:14-17

The **THINKING** of this world will make it very easy for us  
not to **OBEY GOD** and give us reasons not to **LOVE OTHERS**.

There are only three eternal investments in our lives:

**HOLY SPIRIT**

**GOD'S WORD**

**PEOPLE**

## Love... Is It In You?

### **A gut check:**

1 John 2:8-14

Christianity is a claim proven by our \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

The life of Christ will produce \_\_\_\_\_ like His  
and \_\_\_\_\_ like His.

It is hard to love others when we are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The path of spiritual growth is:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Getting in the \_\_\_\_\_ until the \_\_\_\_\_ is in us  
Overcoming our \_\_\_\_\_  
Walking in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Knowing \_\_\_\_\_

### **Avoiding the fool's choice:**

1 John 2:14-17

The \_\_\_\_\_ of this world will make it very easy for us  
not to \_\_\_\_\_ and give us reasons not to \_\_\_\_\_.

There are only three eternal investments in our lives:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Life Group Study Questions

For the week of January 21, 2024

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. We all have different things we love to do in our spare time. What are your top two or three things you love to do when you have some extra hours in the week to get you refreshed?
2. This weekend we heard that our faith in Jesus is represented by our obedience and love for others. What are some words you would use to explain or define love in action?
3. While most of us rarely feel like we “hate” others, we can probably all think of some people, situations, or issues that stretch our love. Chances are, we each have some indicators or signs that we are not moving toward love, even when dealing with small stuff. Take a look at the list below. What might be some of your indicators?

Withdraw  
Nervous  
Sarcasm  
Extra verbal  
Impatient  
Gossip  
Other

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. People define love in a variety of ways. The first one that typically comes to mind is the emotion of how much we like someone or something. Yet, we all know emotions come and go. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, gives a new perspective of the life-changing love our God offers us that we heard about in this weekend’s message. As you read the chapter, jot down each characteristic of love and answer the questions below.

### **1 Corinthians 13 New International Version (NIV)**

*If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

As you look back at the traits of love listed above:

... what are the top two you HAVE to remember and why?

... is there one you have seen God grow you in more than others?

... which one helps us realize showing love does not mean we are to just “give in” no matter what?

... are there any that you have questions on?

*\*Additional Verses to check out – Romans 12:9-16*

2. The cost of sacrificial love is real. How do these verses help us continue to love, even when wronged or dealing with injustice?

***Psalm 9:9-10 New International Version (NIV)***

<sup>9</sup> *The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.*

<sup>10</sup> *Those who know your name trust in you,  
for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.*

***Proverbs 15:1-4 New International Version (NIV)***

*A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

<sup>2</sup> *The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge,  
but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.*

<sup>3</sup> *The eyes of the LORD are everywhere,  
keeping watch on the wicked and the good.*

<sup>4</sup> *The soothing tongue is a tree of life,  
but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.*

***Romans 12:17-19 New International Version (NIV)***

<sup>17</sup> *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.*

3. Jesus, our source of love, and His Spirit changing us from the inside out is how we can sacrificially love and forgive beyond what we can expect. Chris talked about five elements in the path of spiritual growth that keep us connected to Jesus, our source of love. We could also look at them as spiritual health markers.

Looking back at the five in your notes...

... was there anything new or good to hear again that helps you understand your spiritual growth/health?

... are there any you'd like some more explanation on?

## TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at this week's message and study, what's most important for you to remember?

2. Do you have any prayer requests regarding this weekend's message or for you personally?

## TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in a Life Group. Over the years, we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME** - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request, either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE** - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

**WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE** - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.