



Week of October 3, 2021

Discussion Questions:

1. Generosity is giving with no strings attached to people who can give nothing in return. Think about the most generous person you know? Why do you consider them generous?
2. Describe a time when you saw a need and responded generously. Has there been a time when you saw a need personally, and turned away without helping? What emotions do you feel now when thinking about those needs?
3. Read John 1:14. What does God's example show us about His heart for everyone?
4. Paul said that John 1:14 shows us that "God is love. God loves everybody. Everybody matters to God." How have followers of Jesus transformed their communities for the good?
5. Paul said, "While we may be criticized for what we believe, we should be famous for our compassion and generosity." How can we encourage each other to respond with compassion and generosity?

6. Decide in advance that when you see a need this week, you will respond with compassion and generosity. Pray for God to show you a need and share with the group what happened.

Moving Forward

“In contrast, in the pagan world, and especially among the philosophers, mercy was regarded as a character defect and pity as a pathological emotion: because mercy involves providing unearned help or relief, it is contrary to justice. This was the moral climate in which Christianity taught that mercy is one of the primary virtues – that a merciful God requires humans to be merciful. Moreover, the corollary that because God loves humanity, Christians may not please God unless they love one another was even more incompatible with pagan convictions. But the truly revolutionary principle was that Christian love and charity must extend beyond the boundaries of family and even those of faith, to all in need.” Rodney Stark in *The Rise of Christianity*

John 1:1, 14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

¹⁴ The Word (God) became flesh (and we know that flesh as Jesus) and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.