



Week of October 17, 2021

Discussion Questions:

1. Think of someone you know who you would say shows genuine love to others. What are the ways you have seen people respond to them?
2. Read Matthew 22:26-29. Imagine how this crowd of Jewish religious leaders reacted to Jesus' words. What conversations do you think happened afterwards?
3. Paul quoted Keith Giles, who said, "*If we really had a Christ-centered theology then the greatest heresy would be failure to love others as Jesus commanded.*" What is your reaction to calling this heresy? Why do you think that is?
4. Read Ephesians 5:1-2. When we truly understand how Jesus loved us and the reason He loved us, how does that enable us to demonstrate love to others?
5. When you think of "those people", what group comes to mind? Who do you find it most difficult to love? Why do you think that is?
6. What specific actions will you intentionally lean into in this season, in order to 1) love yourself, 2) love those people, 3) love our heroes? Discuss how your small group could work together to love some local heroes.

Moving Forward

We'll only love to the degree we know we're loved. If we want to be a church that is known for what we're for, then we have to be people who love ourselves -- so we can love our neighbors. As we do, we will be loving God because our love for Him is always authenticated and demonstrated by our love for others.

Matthew 22:36-39

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Ephesians 5:1-2, 8

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light