

Growth Group Discussion Questions
Series: “Knowing Is Not Enough”
Love: “It’s More Than A Feeling”
Week of February 14th, 2021

Message Summary: Thank God that love is more than a feeling...because it is so good, so meaningful, so special to give and to receive! We celebrate romantic love on Valentine’s Day... where the “feelings” of love are lifted up. But, there is something more. Like with the other 5 things we talked about in this series where “Knowing Is Not Enough”..., with God’s kind of love, feelings are not enough! No one would think of “God’s Kind Of Love” without thinking of some kind of loving actions... kindness, giving, caring, serving, sacrificing, etc. So, we want to see love as a “verb”, as it was meant to be understood. And we’ll want to look at how that experience can be used by us, as Jesus Followers, to affect others and those around us for their good and God’s glory. Now that’s something to get excited about!

ICE BREAKER

1. “A wildfire is advancing on your house and everyone is safe for the time being. The police come to your door and tell you, you have 30 minutes to evacuate your home. You can take 3 or 4 articles from your home & belongings with you when you evacuate. What would you grab? Why?”

GOING DEEPER

1. Love, God’s kind of love, is always a verb! When God is introduced to us in 1 John 4:8, we learn that... “God (Himself) is love!” As we grow in our faith, one goal is to become more like God (Jesus), and that clearly means that we need to love more like He does! Read the passage below from 1 Corinthians 13, and discuss the questions that follow.

1 Cor. 13:1 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!

- a. God's kind of love, which this passage speaks about, is the unconditional kind of love that seeks the best for the one being loved. What do verses 1-3 tell about God's kind of love?
- b. Verses 4 thru 8- details for us some of the characteristics of loving others, God's way. Discuss each of these qualities listed below and how they benefit those you love.
- Love is patient and kind.
 - Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude.
 - It does not demand its own way.
 - It is not irritable.
 - It keeps no record of being wronged.
 - It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.
 - Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance

2. Let's look a little deeper into this kind of self-less love. Read the verses below and discuss the questions that follow:

1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

- a. According to verse 7, where does this kind of "agape" Love come from?
- b. Look at verse 7 & 8- when do believers gain the capacity to love this way? (Hint: look at Gal. 5:22-23 to help answer this question)

Galatians 5:22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things.

- c. What can we say according to 1 John 4:8, is true of those who do not love God's way? How does real love show up in our relationships? (Hint: reconsider our list from 1 Cor. 13!)
- d. Look at verses 9 & 10. God showed His love to us by sending Jesus to pay the price for our sins that we could never pay! What does that tell you about God's kind of love that Jesus modeled for us?
- e. Look at verses 11-12 above. What does God's love for us cause us to do for one another?
- f. Look at 1 John 3:18-19 below. How should we love one another according to verse 18? According to verse 19, what shows us that we can be confident when we stand before God one day?

1 John 3:18 Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. 19 Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.

3. So, God is the giver of His kind of love to those who have placed their faith in Jesus. We've discovered that God's kind of Love has a starting point. Read verses 9-10 below.

Phil. 1:9 I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. 10 For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.

- a. What does Paul want for his disciples to grow in and to do more of?
- b. What does Paul tell us here in verse 10, that he wants us to understand "what really matters" in your life as a follower of Jesus? Why is that so important?
- c. Finally, how do we know if we're growing in love?