

Sunday, May 7, 2017 Life Group Sermon-based Homework & Discussion Questions – Message by Nat Crawford, “What is Love?”

REVIEW

Nat gave a message from the Love Chapter, I Corinthians 13, did it raise any questions or concerns for you? What stood out in that message for you?

YOUR STORY

1. What is the difference between love, like, and affection?
2. Give a personal example of something you like, something or someone you have affection for you, and what you really love?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read I John Chapter 2 and discuss what we are instructed to love and not to love.
(For further discussion, discuss the New Commandment mentioned early in the chapter. Discuss the attitudes inside the church and God’s view in looking at our relationships. Discuss “the love of this world” and it’s symptoms and the results.)
 - Love for God through obedience to the Word. (2:5)
 - Hating and loving their brother and sister (2:9-11)
 - Do Not love the world (2:15)
2. Read I John Chapter 3 and discuss what we are instructed to love and not to love.
(Discuss the traits of God’s love and its scope, and what our affections reveal about the nature of our love toward him. Discuss the relationship between hate and love mentioned in the chapter. Love and fellowship are related here, explore how and make it personal in church relationships.)
 - The Father loves us (3:1)
 - Not a child of God if you don’t’ love your brother (3:10)
 - Love each other (3:14)
 - Love = Christ laying down His life for us. We should do likewise for others (3:16-18)
3. Read I John Chapter 4 and discuss what we are instructed to love and not to love.
(Talk about truth and deception and what God looks at within the church. List all the traits of “loving one another from this chapter” and create a criteria that is spiritual for love within the church family)
 - Love one another (4:7)

- Love comes from God because God is love (4:7-8)
 - God shows His love through sending His son. (4:9-10)
 - Since God loves us we should love others (4:11-12)
 - Rely on God's love for us (4:16)
 - God is love (4:16)
 - Living in love means living in God (4:16)
 - Love (of God) is made complete in us and gives us confidence in the day of judgement. (4:17)
 - No fear in love. Perfect love drives out fear (of punishment/judgment)(4:17)
 - We love because God loves us (4:19)
 - You cannot love God and hate others (4:20-21)
4. Now build a simple theology about love from I John. Then discuss what practical applications can be made from the theology you developed.

(Theology is clear teaching from a Biblical foundation on a topic that is spiritual, in this case, Love. Define, list God's defining attributes, and conclusions that can be made from I John.)

- God is love and manifests His love in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice for our sins. In knowing what Christ has done for us, we are able to see the depth of sacrificial servant love that belongs to God. And as a result of seeing this love manifested in Christ, we are able to love God who first loved us, we should aspire to love those that God loves, namely our brothers and sisters in Christ, and we should turn away from loving the things of this world. If we don't or cannot love others and break from loving the world, our love for God is suspect. When we love God and love others, we are living out the great commandment of Christ and we do not have to live in fear of God's judgment because loving God and others allows us to stand before God with confidence.

TAKING IT HOME

1. How does John's understanding of love correspond with what Nat taught Sunday in his message from I Corinthians 13? (Is it similar, contradictory, or complimentary? Why or why not?)
2. What one way can you live out one truth you discovered in this study from I John in the coming week?