



SESSION 3: LOVE ONE ANOTHER



IN THIS SESSION

The definition of ‘love’ in Biblical terms. We will reveal how the relationship of Jesus’ command to “love one another” is central to the study of the others.



KEY PASSAGES

- **John 13:34-35** ³⁴ A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
- **Galatians 5:13-14** ¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- **1 John 4:7-12** ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.



DISCUSS

- Give 2-3 examples, stories or occasions where you believe you experienced pure, adulterated love. What were the marks or characteristics of these moments? How did it make you feel? Repeat this exercise with stories or occasions where you believe you expressed pure, unadulterated love.
- John 13 is a difficult passage precisely because Jesus’ teaching is just flat out hard to swallow—it is not in our nature, nor is it in our culture to abandon the pursuit of self-gratification to meet the needs of others. Honestly assess and process how your attitude compares with the command of Jesus to “love one another.” Where is the direction of your life inconsistent with Jesus’ command?
- Can you, with the Spirit’s help, clearly and specifically identify “towel” moments in your own day-to-day experience? Are there helpful patterns that might encourage your awareness of relinquishing your way of doing life and adopting Christ’s way of true living? In your discipling relationship or with the group, talk and pray through some of these moments where “towel” love might be exercised. In what ways can you prepare/equip/train yourself to respond to these real-life situations in a way that Jesus would if he were you?



PRAY

- As we've read, 1 John 4:7-12 reminds us that our ability to know, experience and exhibit real love is only discovered in God. Pray that the Spirit, the One who knows the mind of God (1 Cor. 2:10b-13) will impart a greater understanding and appreciation of the Father's love for you. Be encouraged to pray this vertical prayer ("you to God") with your own transformation and horizontal relationships ("you and others") in mind.