



OUR FAMILY VALUES

LOVE

Theme: Love 8

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: Love does not seek its own.

Key Scripture: *1 Corinthians 13:5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,*

Read: Out of all the different aspects of love, this is one of the more powerful aspects that tests whether we in fact have received and truly know the Father's love. Love does not seek after itself or the welfare and the benefit of self. Love doesn't put itself first and weigh up whether it will act based on the cost to itself. Love is not self centred and self consumed. Love does not seek its own.

Only when we have received this love and are perfected in this love through the power of the Holy Spirit in our inner most being as the apostle Paul describes in Ephesians 3:14-19, will we actually be able to say yes and amen to this reality. The more of His love we are in, the less we seek our own life and way.

We are taught by Jesus to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and in John we see Jesus saying His Father seeks worshippers who worship in spirit and truth. What are we truly seeking first? The kingdom and His righteousness or our own? What we seek FIRST is the key.

Man, out of the strength of his flesh which is the counterfeit version of the real, can put God and others first to a degree and we can see this in operation by God's people, but this isn't sustainable when the flesh is asked to go beyond itself in an act of love that costs it its very self.

We can also see a lost world through multiple organisations and other religions putting others first from this same counterfeit position.

Philippians 2:3-7 is Christ modelling for us, what sons of His are to model. When we are in Love or in Christ, these words become our reality. We find ourselves being able to live like this and many are impacted by this kingdom lifestyle. Only when we are in Christ can we release the fragrance of Christ, bringing the Father glory.

Philippians 2:3-7 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Jesus lived His entire life putting God and other people's needs ahead of His own. He paid the ultimate sacrifice of the laying down of His life for His Father's will to be accomplished as an example for the church to follow. I have to ask how many of us know this kingdom reality of love that enables and empowers this kingdom lifestyle? We may have entered the kingdom but we need to possess and inherit the promises of inheritance of the kingdom, so we live as ambassadors for Christ. Love is the first promise that needs to be possessed and inherited.

Ambassadors don't seek their own, but from a position of His love operating within them, put the welfare and the best interest of the one they serve and His subjects ahead of themselves.



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Questions:

1. What challenges you the most by what you just heard?
2. Why does love not seek its own?
3. How much of the counterfeit version of love gets modelled compared to His love and why?