



OUR FAMILY VALUES

LOVE

Theme: Love 35

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

Key Truth: God's Love, loves beyond our behaviour.

Read: Last week we looked at how man's love is temporal, very natural and very limited in its ability to love another human being, beyond itself, especially when this other human being's behaviour is actively aggressive and in absolute opposition to what is acceptable.

We are to be forever grateful and extremely thankful that God's love for us is not based upon our behaviour but on who He is. If God's love is based upon our good behaviour then we are all severely in dire straights as God says no one is good, only the Father.

What has your experience been of receiving His love that is not based on whether we live the right way or not? Jesus experienced the ultimate betrayal in having Judas, one of His disciples betray Him for 30 silver coins. Just take a minute to think about this. A man whom you have loved, cared for, walked with and encouraged to come into all Your Father has for him, sells you out and betrays you for his personal gain of a mere 30 silver coins, and you still address him as friend and love him like you love the other 11.

How is this possible? Because the Father's love has the power to love in a way that human love only dreams of. His love is an all consuming fire that devours all evil and darkness in its path and is able to demonstrate a dimension that is purely from another kingdom. God's love isn't rational or logical but is revelational.

The more we receive His love through the power of the Holy Spirit revealing God's Word, which is Spirit, we will find ourselves fully capable and able to love beyond peoples behaviour as well. Read this verse below out loud and hear what Jesus is declaring.

John 17:25-26 "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

As the Spirit makes His name known to us more and more the love with which the Father loved His Son, is perfected within us. It is this perfecting work which enables us to love man not based on his behaviour but based on the love that is formed within us.

We have truly become and are becoming Christ like - Romans 8:28-29

Questions:

1. Why is it essential we are able to love people beyond their behaviour?
2. Who is supposed to be able to love like this and why?
3. Where does this loving beyond behaviour need to start first? The church or the world or both simultaneously?
4. Share with the group if you have experienced this love from a fellow believer and what impact did it have on you?

Action: What are you being made aware of through this resource and is there one thing you need to put in place from going through this resource?