

LOVE

Theme: Love 11

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

Key Truth: Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness.

Key Scripture: *1 Corinthians 13:6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;*

Read: We are called to live lives of righteousness, so it is only natural that love doesn't rejoice when we live lives of unrighteousness. Living lives of unrighteousness is when we live outside of God's design and live from the flesh. Every time we live from the flesh we live from the position of unrighteousness. This doesn't mean we are no longer right in God's eyes but it does mean we are not living in accordance to His pattern.

Galatians teaches us that the flesh and the Spirit are in direct opposition to each other, so how can the Spirit rejoice when we live from our flesh. 1 Peter 2:24 teaches us that Jesus bore our sins in His body so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

He died and rose again so we would be free from the nature and power of sin, to live our lives from the position of now being made right in Christ - righteousness.

1 John 2:29 *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.*

1 John 3:7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

1 John 3:10 *By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*

The scriptures are very clear here in relation to living lives of righteousness. To walk in unrighteousness is to not walk in love and to not walk in love is to not walk in Christ and to not walk in Christ, is to walk in lust or the flesh. Paul said the crown he was to receive was a crown of righteousness. For Paul to receive this crown he had to have lived a life of righteousness. We are to be no different as it was Paul that taught us to imitate him as he imitated Christ.

Questions:

1. Why is walking in unrighteousness so destructive for the individual and the body?
2. There is a real synergy between knowing He is righteous and being able to live out righteousness. Why is this the case?
3. How does knowing just how right one is in Christ impact one's ability to demonstrate righteousness?
4. The crown of righteousness is given to all those who live a life of righteousness. How does this impact the way you think about the importance of living this life out today?