

LOVE

Theme: Love 22

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

Key Truth: Rooted in What?

Key Scripture: *Ephesians 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love.*

Read: It's one thing to SAY one is rooted and grounded in love but it's an entirely different thing to BE rooted and grounded in love. The difference between saying I am and actually BEING in this reality and truth, is as far apart as the earth is from mars. In fact I would say it's even further apart than that. It's an entire galaxy and universe away from one another.

Just because they sound the same doesn't mean they are the same, and Christ died and rose again for us to be rooted and grounded in Him, not to just profess this reality and yet NEVER know the powerful dimension of this. Only when we are rooted and grounded in His Love through the power of His Spirit revealing this within us, will we be able to comprehend with all the saints who have gone before us, how wide, long, high and deep this transformative love is.

We sing a song at The Rock called "Love changes everything" by Red Rocks Worship. I would encourage us to all go and allow it to wash into and over you and ask the dreaded but life giving question, Is His Love changing me as the words of the song declares? His love is TRANSFORMATIVE in nature and if we are rooted and grounded in love, we will be constantly being changed and going from strength to strength and having Christ's Life being formed in us.

God's power releases us from the Tap Root of self, the very root that Jesus said you must deny if you want to follow Me.

Luke 9:23-24 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

Just because we have Jesus in our lives doesn't mean we have been released from this Tap Root of self. Peter of the gospels found this Tap Root living in him alive and well and it had him denying Jesus when he said he wouldn't and also trying to save his life. The 2 things Jesus said you need to be able to do if you want to follow Him wholeheartedly. The prerequisite for following Christ from the HEART and not just externally, is having the Tap Root of self ripped from us and being rooted, anchored and grounded in Love.

Questions:

1. What is your experience of having the Tap Root of self ripped out of you?
2. How would you describe what being rooted and grounded in love is like?
3. What has this rooted and grounded in love enabled and empowered in your life?
4. Why is it easy to follow Jesus externally but not have an internal change of root system?
5. Who would we become like if we knew this love within our inner most being?

Action: What is one thing you need to put in place from going through this resource?