

LOVE

Theme: Love 26

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

Key Truth: There is no fear in Love.

Key Scripture: *1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*

Read: This is a very powerful promise that we are to know and live from. When we are in love with Christ there is absolutely nothing to be afraid of. The love of God is so powerful that all fear is eradicated in the presence of Love. God is love, so when love reveals Himself within you, how can fear continue to exist where Love now is?

We are talking about the Creator of everything here. We are not talking about some man made religion or some demonic belief system. We are talking about the Holy of Holies, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. The one who was and is and is to come. We are talking about the perfect One, the One who is Love.

When this One is revealed within us through the Spirit's power in our inner man, how can fear remain? It's no different to when the light goes on in a dark room and the darkness leaves the room. This is exactly the same. One reality comes in and the other reality has to leave. There is no co-existence.

When we fear it's because we fear punishment as the scripture says. There is no longer any punishment in God when we are in Christ, meaning there is absolutely no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Christ has taken our sin and iniquity on Himself, to set us free from the wrath of God which comes upon all those who reject Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Fear comes from not knowing who we are in Christ and not being able to see God for who God really is.

We as the church are to be perfected in Love, in other words we are to be perfected in Christ. If we are not being perfected in Christ then we are staying the same as we always have been and there is every chance we will still live from fear when the Word of God goes forth and when we are confronted with the trials and challenges of what it truly means to follow Jesus. We will constantly hear what we are not instead of hearing who we are being called to be, and we will constantly reject and deny the Way to this life, instead of receiving it.

Love and fear can not co-exist because Love is all knowing and all powerful. It's not even a close call. Where Love is the nature of the Father is and there is no darkness in the Father. Lean in more and more asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the Father's love within you so you can be free from all fear.

Questions:

1. What is your experience of receiving this kind of Love?
2. How has Love set you free from the fear of punishment?
3. What does it mean to be perfected in Love? Who can give personal testimony to the transformative work of love happening within them?
4. What are our thoughts about perfect Love casting out all fear?
5. What fears have you been set free from, after receiving this love?

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