

LOVE

Theme: Love 32

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

Key Truth: God does this work of Love.

Key Scripture: *Philippians 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

Read: This is incredibly good news. It is not my, nor anyone else's responsibility to birth and form God's love within me, but His. This is just one verse of which there are many that state this exact same truth. It is God who builds His church and it is God who forms and establishes His love within us. I sense for some of us we can take a deep breath and just breathe a sigh of relief.

The scripture is very clear. It is God who is at work in you, and this work that God accomplishes is for His good pleasure. It's the same in the passage in Ephesians where it says, we are His workmanship. So often we hear that and think primarily that it's about us doing works. The primary position is, we are His workmanship and we are in His hands being crafted, just like the passage above.

So if God is the one at work in us, then what is our part in this process? Our role is in allowing the Father to do this work, through our complete surrender and submission to Him of our will. We are to relinquish our lives unto Him and for His sake and this gives God permission to go to work on our behalf and accomplish His good pleasure in us.

Once again notice where the work takes place? Within us. In our spirit and soul (mind, will, emotions). If we truly want the Father's love radiating in and through us we must allow the Father to be the builder of His house and build in accordance to His plan. This means and requires us to completely open up and be vulnerable and transparent before Him.

Can I say from experience that although this may not be easy and it will take you way outside your comfort zone, it is the only way His love will be established in us as Paul describes. There is no loss in going to this place, only gain. Can I urge you to allow yourself to let go and relinquish your entire lives into the hands of the One who loves you more than you may even know.

Questions:

1. How does knowing it's God who does this inner work change anything for you?
2. What is the difference between a work done in you compared to a work external of you?
3. Why is the relinquishing of one's entire life for His sake so essential in this process?
4. How easy do we find surrender and submission to Christ and why?
5. What has enabled us to surrender and to submit our lives or entire lives to Christ?
6. Share how receiving His love within you through His work has changed 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?