

LOVE

Theme: Love 17

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

Key Truth: Love endures all things.

Key Scripture: *1 Corinthians 13:7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

Read: The word endure means to suffer something patiently. It is very similar to bearing all things. Love has the power and ability to suffer all things for the sake of who it is loving. Jesus suffered patiently for mankind through every trial and tribulation He faced, culminating in the ultimate suffering, being separated from His Father.

We may think His brutal death on the cross was the ultimate place of suffering for Jesus, but I want to suggest to us that the separation He endured from His Father, when past, present and future sins of mankind were laid on Him, was much worse. Matthew 27:46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

For the first time in His entire life Jesus is separated from His Father because of the sin of the creation He loves. His heart cry towards heaven is spine chilling and if we allow it, will bring us to our knees in absolute surrender and devotion to Him. As Jesus raised His own hallelujah from His inner most being, all of the heavenly angelic realm took note and the veil of the temple was torn in two, as He yielded up His Spirit.

Jesus endured this position for you and me because of His, and the Father's, love for us. Let this resonate in your Spirit and ask the Holy Spirit to bring this reality to light and life within you. The more His love is being perfected in us we will find ourselves able to endure the sinful fleshly behaviour of others and release the love of our Father towards these people. Like Jesus we will suffer patiently for others, enduring all things while receiving the abuse of others, even when they have no concept they are being loved in this way.

When I say others I mean anyone and everyone that is in your life. Others can be God's people and they can be people who don't know God. Our neighbours are those who are justified by His blood and those who aren't. It may surprise you who in fact causes you to endure the most, for when you truly start coming into Truth and start living from it, you will expose all the flesh that lives around you. Love endures all things because this is what love does.

Questions:

1. How can love endure all things?
2. How does knowing Jesus endured separation from His Father for you, impact your life?
3. Share of a time when you have endured the behaviour of others because of His love in you?
4. Share of a time when you have received the enduring love of someone else, when your behaviour didn't deserve this love?
5. How aware would you say you are, that others around you are enduring all things for you, in the hope that you will come into a greater life in Christ, and be able to model the same for others?

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