

Hitting the Mark- Love People

Discussion Guide

May 7, 2017

Context: Love One Another. Such a basic command, yet one in which we often overlook. Why is this so important? What does it look like to love like Christ? What about some of those hard to love people? Jesus modeled love to us perfectly. Let's discuss what it means to love as Christ has loved us!

Texts:

John 13:34-35

Colossians 3:13

Romans 15:7

Romans 12:10

Discussion Guide:

This morning, Matt led us through a brief 5 question Self – Assessment. Let's re-take it and talk through our responses.

- I love MORE people than ever before...
 - think quantity
 - I love more KINDS of people than I did before...
 - think Diversity
 - I love over LONGER periods of time than I did before...
 - think Endurance
 - I respond in love QUICKER in certain situations than I did before...
 - think Willingness
 - My love seems to be LOUDER than before...
 - think Boldness
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- How did you grade yourself on each one of these?
 - Was there one statement you could decisively say “YES!” to?
 - Was there one that is currently absent from your life?

Read **John 13:34-35. Jesus repeats, “Love one another” three times. Why is this command so important?**

- What does this love most often look like in your life?

Read **Colossians 3:13, Romans 15:7 and Romans 12:10.**

- These Scriptures encourage us to love by forgiving, accepting and honoring others. What might you *do* this week that could demonstrate forgiveness, acceptance and honor?
- When is it hard for you to follow Jesus' model of love? What can we do about that?

Can you think of a person or situation where it is difficult for you to love? Paint the picture (you can leave out names if its appropriate).

- Why is this so? What would it look like to love in this moment?
- Since God is gracious to undeserving sinners, how can we know when to be gracious to those in sin and when to confront them or separate from them?
- What's the difference between loving someone and liking him? Are we commanded to like everyone? What does this imply?

What truth do you need to be reminded of when it comes to “loving one another”?

- How does that truth translate into loving and valuing your family members?
- How might you pray for and reach out to the lonely neighbor no one seems to like?
- Who else is on your radar (oikos) to love?
- How can you put love into action this week?

Wrap up with prayer, asking God to help you experience and share His love this week.