

Life Group Questions

LOVE-HATE
RELATIONSHIPS OF A
True Believer



February 7, 2010

1 John 2:7-17

Pastor David Jebaratnam

GETTING TO KNOW ME

- Can you recall a time that you experienced genuine love?
- What is your preferred love language? (*The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman) Chapman's list of love languages is: words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, and physical touch.
- Can you recall experiencing a difficult relationship with another believer?
- Can you recall a time that you were crippled/struggled with a worldly sin?

INTO THE BIBLE

- Read 1 John 2:7-17. Recap the main points of the sermon.
- How do you react to the following statements:
"Loving another person, especially a believer, has nothing to do with what the other person says or does, but has everything to do with my status of being a true believer."
"People who truly love someone do so because of what is inside of them, not because of good qualities inside the other person." (John Townsend, *Loving People*, page 29)
"Not loving the world, rather the sins of the world, has nothing to do with what the world offers, but has everything to do with my status of being a true believer."
- Read Matthew 15:10-20. How does this Scripture support or not support the statements mentioned above?
- Read James 4:1-4. Identify James' reasons for lack of love among believers. Can love for the world create lack of love among believers? How? (cf. 1 John 2:15-17)
- Read John 13:34-35 and 15:9-17. What did Jesus teach about love and loving one another?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13. What does this chapter teach us about love? The word "always" is used 4 times in verse 7. Is this true of your life? Why/Why not?
- Read 1 Peter 2:12. What did Peter envision when he said "live such good lives"? (Hint: Read 1 Peter 2:13-3:7)
- Read Colossians 3:1-4:1. Identify the ingredients of a Christ-centered life (i.e., "Christ is all, and in all")? What steps can you take to live such a life?

APPLICATION

- Would you be interested in practicing one or both of the disciplines for "taming the tongue"? (Share with your group next week how it went). Go a day saying nothing negative? Go a day saying nothing dishonest?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10. What is one thing you would do this week to grow (i.e., "to do...more and more") in your love for others?
- What is one thing you would do to resolve a long-standing or short-term conflict with another?
- What is one thing you would do to free yourself from a worldly sin?

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