



PART 3: STICK WITH LOVE

Sermon Notes

Text: 1 John 4:7-12

Intro:

Matthew 1:23

God's motivation for sending Jesus into the world was love (John 3:16)

God's fundamental orientation toward us is love.

What is love?

Greek - *Agape*: Signifies a kind of love that prioritizes the best interests of others regardless of personal cost.

John 4:7-12

The greatest way to show God that you love him is to love the people he loves.

Matthew 22:37-39

1 John 4:20

1 John 3:11

“But what about...”

John 13:34 - Jesus modelled love by embodying it in his life on earth.

Jesus is God's way of saying “This is what I mean when I say I love you.”

1. But what about the possibility that people will misinterpret my love for them as an endorsement for their sin?

Jesus loved first, then offered instruction and advice *after* he earned a hearing.

2. But what about if someone I loved hurt me in the past? Does loving them mean making myself vulnerable to more pain?

Jesus provides an escalating series of responses to others' hate: Luke 6:26-28

Conclusion:

Romans 5:8

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. W

Study & Discussion:

1. What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?
2. Do you have a hard time or easy time believing that God's fundamental orientation toward you is love? Why or why not?
3. Read 1 John 4:7-21. What do you notice in this passage? What does it say about God's love for us? What does it say we should do in response to God's love? How do we know God loves us? How do we know we love God?
4. Consider the two "but what about" questions (see notes). How do you answer those questions? Can you think of examples of how Jesus modelled responses to those questions other than what was share in the sermon?

Practicing the Way of Jesus:

1. Look at Jesus escalating loving responses to the actions of our enemies (Luke 6:26-28).
 - i. Love your enemies: Act generally lovingly toward those on the opposite of issues than you.
 - ii. Do good to those who hate you: Do good deeds to those who don't like you personally.
 - iii. Bless those who curse you: Speak well of (and to) those who speak poorly of you.

- iv. Pray for those who mistreat you: Distance yourself from abuse, but continue to pray for the abuser.

Think of people in your life who you would consider an enemy, or at least not on good terms with you. Which response is appropriate for that situation? How will you do that this week?

Prayer: