

Connect Group Discussion Guide

| SERMON DATE | SERMON SERIES | SERMON TITLE |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 11/28/2021 | What Kind of Love | Love commandments |
| Message on YouTube | ▶ What Kind of Love Part 2 | |

MESSAGE ABSTRACT:

Continuing our series, *What Kind of Love: living the epic love story*, through 1 John, we turn our attention this week to chapter 2.

We discussed the three proofs of knowing God:

1. **Obeying His Word (1 John 2:3).** Simply put, to know God is to obey him. But we obey because we know him. This is the idea that Jesus conveyed when he described himself as the good shepherd. His sheep hear his voice and they follow Him. (John 10:14, 27). The natural response of one who knows God is to obey him.
2. **Walking as He walked (1 John 2:6).** We have the transforming power of His Spirit abiding within us. That changes how we “walk”--our lifestyle. We become imitators of Jesus because we have His Spirit within us. And that gives us the power to...
3. **Loving others (1 John 2:7-11).** To love one another is both an old commandment (Leviticus 19:18) as well as a new one (John 13:34). What makes it new is the presence of Jesus in our lives, for it gives us the power to “love as he has loved us.”

Loving others stands in sharp contrast to what we are not to love: the world or the things of the world (1 John 2:15-17). These two cannot be harmonized. There are three loves of the world that we must turn from:

1. **Loving my pleasure.** “The desires of the flesh” are those desires that try to answer the question, “What makes me feel better?”
2. **Loving my protection.** “The desires of the eyes” are those desires that try to answer the question, “What makes me feel richer, more fulfilled?”
3. **Loving my promotion.** “The pride of life” are those desires that try to answer the question, “What makes me feel important?”

The two loves (love for my brother and love for myself) are at war with each other. The question is which will we spend our energy building: The Kingdom of God or the kingdom of me? The way we discover which one we are invested in is discovered by what annoys us. When our “brothers” annoy us, we have a clue which of the worldly self-loves they threaten. So often we take offense and try to stand our ground for ourselves. Yet, offense and love cannot coexist. We must choose one or the other. In this chapter, John declares clearly which it should be.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In what way did God speak to you in the message this past weekend?
2. Why is it difficult to love your neighbor? Who is your neighbor (or “brother”)? Does it include all mankind or just believers?
3. What are some examples in your own life of the three loves?
4. Did someone annoy you recently in a way that caused you to secretly wish they “just went away”? In what way might you have loved them better?
5. Are you holding an offense toward someone that you need to let go? Confess and ask the group to pray for you.