

The "mark" of a Disciple: Love
December 10, 2017

As I was pondering and praying about this message I was confronted in my own heart about the love of God. We are called to love one another. It is the "new" command that Jesus gave us in the book of John. But, let me ask you this: do you believe that God loves you unconditionally or are you trapped in the lie that your performance dictates God's love? How can we love one another when we battle with the thoughts that God does not love me or if I just do a little better he will love me more? When we understand his love through the word then we can love ourselves and others.

Satan's primary weapon against you is to make you believe God doesn't love you.

1. Read 1 John 4:7-16

- Take time to discuss this passage. Focus on how many times the writer is emphasizing the word love. The word here is the Greek word agape. Basically, it means unconditional love.
- Discuss this statement: God does not have love, God is love.
re-read 1 John 4:16
- Discuss where a "performance" mentality can come from and how does it effect our thoughts toward God and his love for us.
- Do you believe God's love is based on how well you do or does He love you for who you are?
- God cannot love us more than He does today but we can walk in a greater revelation and experience that love. Please discuss.

Take time to pray with anyone struggling with God's unconditional love.

2. God's word is also demonstrated.

Read Romans 5:6-8, Ephesians 2:4-5

The word demonstrated in the KJV is "commendeth". It means to show, prove and establish.

- Discuss this statement: God showed, proved and established his love for us while we were still opposed (sinners) to him.
- How much more does he have to do???

3. Read Romans 8:31-39

- Discuss this passage in view of God's unconditional love
- How have you experienced this love?
- How has his love so transformed your thoughts and your view towards others?

4. Read Romans 13:8-10

The Apostle Paul says that love is the fulfillment of the law.

Please discuss this passage and how this plays out in our everyday lives.

Note: it was impossible for us to fulfill the law, Christ did it for us.

5. Read Galatians 6:1-2

- What is the law of Christ?
- How do we fulfill this law? (love)

If you have time close with reading the love chapter. 1 Corinthians 13