

January 14, 2018

Core Value 1: God the Father is love, therefore, He calls us to love all people.

1. Read: Matthew 5:43-48

Words are very powerful. Imagine being in the midst of Jesus when he said this.

Think of the emotions this would stir in the crowd.

Place yourself there now. Does it stir your thoughts and emotions?

These commands were not just for then but for us now.

- Take time to discuss what you feel when you read these words.

-Take time to discuss our culture and what seems to be a very anti Christian view. How should we respond? Jesus did say we would be persecuted!

2. Read: Colossians 1:21-22, Romans 5:6-8

As Jesus was saying the words in Matthew he knew that God's love would be demonstrated through his own actions on the cross. In view of these scriptures let us never forget that we were once enemies of God. Think of God's response to man's sin and alienation from him.

-Discuss God's love towards us while we were alienated from him.

- At this point in your life group take time to pray for a heart of love towards our enemies. Pray that God will continue through the Spirit to transform our hearts as we reach people with love. P.S. Its not always easy.

3. Read: 1 Thessalonians 3:12, Romans 5:5

Note: the word increase in the greek means to super abound, to exist in abundance.

As we grow In Christ love increases towards one another.

-Discuss growing and increasing in love. How will this effect the culture of our church? Your lives? Your witness in our community?

End your discussion with reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. Spiritual gifts are wonderful, but without love they have no effect. All gifts must be used with the intent of others in mind, immersed in the grace and love of God.