LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Love Fulfills the Law

Passage: Romans 13:8-10

Introduction: Jesus summed up the law as love for God and love for neighbor, calling these the two most important commands (Matt 22:37-40). This section in Romans emphasizes love for neighbor. John brought out several aspects of neighbor love in his sermon and why such love is so important for Christians to care about.

Additional Passages: Matthew 22:37-40, John 13:3-5, 13-15, 34-35; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 John 3:9-10, 18, 4:7-8.

Questions:

1. John noted that Jesus said the defining mark of a Christian is love (Cf. John 13:34-35, see also 1 John 3:9-10, 14 and 4:7-8). Since this is the case, it is important to understand the shape that God expects love to take. What are differences between acting in love as the culture defines it and acting in love as the Bible defines it?

2. Read John 13:3-5 and John 13:13-15. What do we learn from Jesus' actions about the *importance* of loving one another? What do we learn about *how* to love one another?

3. John notes how Paul gives the principle "love others like you want to be loved" to help explain what love for neighbor looks like. How does this illustration help us know how God wants us to treat others?

4. John talked about how Romans 13:8 directs us to return things that we borrow and pay back debts that we owe. Why are these expressions of love? (See 1 John 3:18).

5. John critiqued the common culture viewpoint that you need to love yourself before you can start loving others. John said the answer to self-hate is not to look within, but to look to the Lord, see yourself as He does and invest time in serving others. Did his point about this make sense? Discuss.

6. John said if you are prone to almost never challenging someone with truth, you are likely falling into people pleasing. In contrast, if you relish pointing out the truth and don't use tact, you are likely sinning through unloving communication. Which are you more prone to? How did God challenge you to grow in this area through John's sermon?

7. John talked about how love is a better motivator than fear (see 1 John 4:18). What does it look like to motivate with love instead of with fear?

8. How is God challenging you to love others right now? What helps you grow in love for others?