

This Week

Churchwide
Worship Services Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM
Bible Fellowships Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM
GriefShare Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM in the Library
Spring Nights@Grace Wednesday, 6:00–7:30 PM in the Gymnatorium
Small Groups
Community Groups Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM in Various Homes
Men
A Primer on Living in Grace Tuesday, 6:00–7:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM in the Loft
Samson Society Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library
Friday Morning Study Friday, 6:30–7:30 AM in the Tejas Room

Women
MOMs Study: Calm My Anxious Heart Thursday, 10:00–11:30 AM in Room 208
Senior Adults
Tuesday Afternoon Study Tuesday, 1:00–2:00 PM in Room 111
College & Career
Late Night Tuesday, 7:00–8:30 PM at the G.Y.M.
Junior High
Foundations Study Tuesday, 6:30–7:30 PM at 2921 Moffett

This Morning

Lesson 9: What Agape-love Does for Us —*1 John 3:19–23*
Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I. **What agape-love *shows* about us:** The expression of agape-love indicates that we are actively participating in the truth—*1 John 3:19a*.
- II. **What agape-love *assures* us:** The expression of agape-love in our lives assures us that God has accepted us in spite of our faults, weaknesses, and failures—*1 John 3:19b–20*.
- III. **What agape-love *provides* for us:** Our assurance of acceptance before God engenders confidence to approach Him in prayer and receive affirmative answers to our requests—*1 John 3:21–23*.

A. When we’re assured of our acceptance before God, we’re emboldened to approach Him in prayer—*1 John 3:21*.

B. When we’re emboldened to approach God in prayer, we’re further assured of affirmative answers, because we’re obeying Him and devoted to what’s on His heart—*1 John 3:22*.

C. All the biblical commandments can be summarized into one: practice agape-love toward others and pray for them based on what Jesus Christ has provided for us—*1 John 3:23*.

Discussion

These questions are offered each week to facilitate further discussion of this morning’s topic in small group settings such as Community Groups or over dinner with family and friends. We hope you find them helpful to your spiritual growth.

1. What are some of the things we can assume about ourselves, or even other people, when we observe concrete expressions of agape-love flowing out of our lives? How do expressions of agape-love demonstrate a personal kinship to the “truth”?
2. What does it do to us when we’re not sure that we’re acceptable to God? What matters or issues in our lives complicate His assurance? How do expressions of agape-love offer that assurance according to 1 Peter 4:8? How does God’s knowledge of “all things”, including our failures, flaws, etc., help us deal with the self-condemnation that we generate toward ourselves?
3. How does confidence to approach the Lord in prayer directly follow from knowing that we’re acceptable to Him? In very practical terms, how does that work?
4. On what conditions is the promise of affirmative answers to our requests based? What is involved in each condition? How do these conditions relate to the condition for answered prayer in John 15:7?
5. Since the word “in” is not in the original Greek phrase “believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ” in verse 23, the phrase refers to praying on the basis of what He has provided for us. What does that include according to Hebrews 4:16? How can the concepts of praying on the basis of what Jesus has provided for us and demonstrating agape-love be viewed as “one” commandment? How does your answer compare with Jesus’ answer to the lawyer in Matthew 22:34–40?