



CONNEXIONPOINT
C H U R C H

WEEKLY LESSON:



THEME: REPRESENT: THE LOVE

MEMORY VERSE: "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35 (NLT)

******Remember to listen to this week's sermon, review the Sermon Notes Sheet and complete the discussion questions before attending your Connection Group.***

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus predicted that in the last days, because sin will become rampant everywhere, the love of many will grow cold (Matthew 24:12). Today, an increase of this cold and insensitive love can be found in both the world and the church.

Yet the Bible teaches that God is love (1 John 4:16) and our love for one another proves that we are Christians (John 13:34-35).

This week's sermon and Connexion Group Lesson we explore what Christian love is and why it is God's agenda for his church.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Think of a person who is loving. In what specific ways does he or she demonstrates love to others?

GROUP LESSON DISCUSSION

1. What was most helpful, encouraging, or challenging from this week's sermon?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. Powerful and spectacular as spiritual gifts may be, why are they worthless without love?

Why is it easy to fall into the trap of serving other and exercising our spiritual gifts without a heart of love?

What preventative measures can we take to ensure that love remains our motive in ministry?

3. The world understands a conditional love with strings attached, such as: “I love you if you live up to my expectations.” “I love you if you make me feel good.” “I love you if you are rich and beautiful.” Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

What are the seven characteristics that “love” is *not*? Considering these seven characteristics, why do you think God has to command us to love another?

4. For centuries Christians have noted that 1 Corinthians 13 gives us a picture of Jesus. Reread verses 1-8, replacing *love* with *Jesus*. What fresh insights and vision does this give you of Jesus?
5. Like Jesus, we are to love others *in spite of* their faults, sins, problems, and so on. Why is that kind of love such an awesome force when unleashed in our personal lives and in the church?

next steps

This week as you continue to what love is and why it is the only way to relate to one another, read and mediate of the following verses:

Monday: Ephesians 1:4-6

Tuesday: Ephesians 2:4-5

Wednesday: Ephesians 5:1-2

Thursday: 1 John 4:7-12

Friday: 1 John 4:16-21

Saturday: 1 John 5:1-5

Sunday: Proverbs 21:21 (NIV)