

**LEADERS**

Please make sure the SGL Training, Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am - 12:00pm is on your calendar.

**LEARN**

Read 1 John 4:7-13 together. What stands out from the text or sermon that is helpful, encouraging or challenging?

Why is it important that love is from God and that God's character therefore defines what love is?  
(Ex: Love is so sentimentalized as to be meaningless without a foundation in God. Our love as Christians is true/godly to the extent we are modeling God's love.)

How are we to understand "God is love"?

(God is spirit, God is light, God is love... all 3 describe the essence of his nature as holy, pure, and love. Our standard of love doesn't define God. Rather, God defines what the standard of love is.)

God, in his love, deals with our sin through Christ. How does he do that and why must we closely link our sin and God's love?

(Ex: We have not loved God - not first, not at all apart from God. God in his love sent Jesus to be our propitiation, the sacrifice for sin that removes our guilt and restores us to God. God's love does not minimize sin but fully addresses it so we can be saved.)

**PRACTICE**

God's love seen in the gospel results in Christians loving one another. How does (or should) the gospel motivate your love on a regular basis?

(God's love is a divine and holy kindness leading to sacrificially giving of one's self for the good of another. As we dwell on God's love our desire deepens to love like him.)

It's easy to say we need to love others in a general way (and it's true). But is there anyone in your life you are convicted to particularly focus on loving in a godly way?

How can we as small group members grow in love for one another? What would the attitude or tone of our group be like if godly love increasingly characterized the group?

(Ex: Seeking opportunities to serve, to build up, to openly discuss sin and repent together, marriages growing in depth, welcoming new people, initiating relationships, forgiving offenses.)

**CHANGE**

A Christian is someone fully forgiven and perfectly loved by God. How do these truths need to penetrate your heart in renewed ways to lead you toward godly love of others?

(Ex: Being forgiven, I am free from guilt and fear of God's judgment. Being loved, I can give of myself out of the abundance of God's love in my life.)