



# Sermon Discussion Guide




## Greater Love: To Know You Know

1 John 2:3-11

Ray Cortese, August 29 & 30, 2015

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 John 2:3-11. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 What is the hardest test you have ever had to take?
- 2 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, "What was the sermon about?" what would you have said?

#### TO KNOW YOU KNOW: THE OBEDIENCE TEST

- 3 What is the difference between saying obedience is what makes you a Christian versus obedience as the evidence that you are a Christian?
- 4 Ray defined obedience as "a glad and joyful submission to the will of your Father." What strikes you about that definition?
- 5 How have you seen, or how has someone else pointed out to you, change, progress, or growth in your life lately as a result of Holy Spirit's work in you?

- 6 What were the two different audiences that Ray was speaking to, and how did he address each? Which audience do you tend to fall into?
- 7 God is a loving parent who gives commands and guidance because he knows what is good for us. Can you recall a time when you obeyed God, even though you may not have wanted to, and it turned out for your best?
- 8 Christians don't just obey God because it's their duty, they obey Him because they love Him and want to please Him; it's about a relationship. How might God be calling you to obey him, out of love, in your current stage of life?

#### TO KNOW YOU KNOW: THE LOVE TEST

- 9 Why is it impossible to both love God and hate his kids? Are you guilty of claiming to love God but hating your brother or sister in Christ?
- 10 What made/makes the love of Jesus unique? What makes the love of Jesus powerful and transformative? When was the last time you felt moved or were changed by the love of Jesus?
- 11 Ray said the love of Jesus frees us from self-righteousness, self-absorption, and self-protection. Which one of these do you need freedom from the most?

### **Step 3: Final Reflections**

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?