



Sermon Discussion Guide




Greater Love: Family Love

1 John 3:10-18

Ray Cortese, September 26 & 27, 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 3:10-18. 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 We were made for connection; without community we will wither and die. Have you ever experienced deep connection or been a part of a life-changing community?
- 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?

FAMILY LOVE: THE COMMUNITY

- 3 The whole world can be divided into two families. What are the two families, and what are the belief systems of each family?
- 4 Why is love the true evidence/mark of the family of God? How does love prove the existence of God? How have people sometimes completed this sentence: "They'll know we are Christians by the way we hate _____"?

- 5 What is meant by the phrase, “church wounded”? Have you ever been hurt by the church? Discuss the following quote: “He who loves his dream or idea of community more than the community itself destroys Christian community.” Why does Ray end every Pastor’s Class promising the potential new members that they *will be* disappointed, hurt, or neglected by Seven Rivers?
- 6 Do you love the church? Are you raising your kids to love the church? Do you give to the church?

FAMILY LOVE: THE EXPERIENCE

- 7 Read 1 John 3:16 again. What did Ray mean when he said, “You won’t give what you haven’t received; you won’t love unless you have experienced love”?
- 8 What is a “functional savior”? Can you give an example of a functional savior that you often look to instead of Jesus?
- 9 When was the last time you were leveled by the love of God? When was the last time the love of God rocked you/awakened you?

FAMILY LOVE: THE EXPRESSION

- 10 How are pride and arrogance the antitheses to love? How do you create a culture of humility within the church?
- 11 Do you need to forgive someone in the church? Is there a relationship in your life that needs to be reconciled? Are you harboring bitterness in your heart against a brother or sister in Christ?
- 12 What did the story about Ray’s son needing blood illustrate about the church and family love?

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?