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HOPE FOR RELATIONSHIPS

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GETTING BETTER AT LOVE

What's Love Got to do With It?


Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh
Cedar Grove Church | April 23, 2017

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

Getting to Know One Another

- **Share your:** Name, Where you live, What you do, How you got to Cedar Grove?
- **Share one special thing's** that you either did, heard, or experienced over the Easter Weekend.
-  [Start Bible Study Video before answering this question.] Share what your favorite Love Songs were when you were growing up?

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

God's Personhood is Defined by Two Primary Characteristics

1. God is **Light!**
 - God is not only true. He is **truth!**

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

2. God is **Love.**
 - Love is WHO He IS.
 - Even His anger is only used and motivated by **His Love.**

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:8

6 Things the Bible Teaches Us About Real Love

1. Real love establishes a real line of **demarcation!**

You can tell God's children from the devil's children, because those who belong to the devil refuse to do right or to love each other. 1 John 3:10

Our love for each other proves that we have gone from death to life. But if you don't love each other, you are still under the power of death. 1 John 3:14 CEV

2. Real love lays down **real life.**

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16

3. Real love meets **real needs.**

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 1 John 3:17

- **Pity:** Not only understanding the suffering of someone one but wanting to do something to help them with what you have.

4. Real love takes **real action.**

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

5. Real love removes **real fear.**

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18

6. Real love forces me to love people I **don't like**.

*Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. **1 John 4:20***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Start off by going around the group** and describing the most loving human being that you have ever known. Who were they and what was their impact on your life?
2. **Real vs. Fake Love** - As stated in our study when the world talks of love it is usually sex. When they aren't referring to sex they are usually referring to a mamby pamby, ooey goeey, sentimental feeling. Based on the scriptures we looked at what are some of the clear differences between God's love and the Worlds love?
3. **Love vs. Fear** - Why do you think love cancels out fear?
4. **Becoming a Believer** - If I ask you when you crossed over the line from the devils camp to God's. You would likely give the day, date, season, or time that you received Jesus. How is that response different than what the bible is teaching? (if you need help review 3:10)



5. **Rapid Fire Questions** - When it comes to living a life of love: [intended to take 3-5 minutes for all questions]

- How conscious are you of trying to be loving each day?
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- Who would you say your love has impacted most this past week?
- Who has your love impacted most in your lifetime?
- Describe a time that you loved someone with your words?

- Describe a time that you loved someone with your deeds/actions? How long ago were those times?
- Who are the people in your life that you are currently avoiding/not talking too/ or on the outs with?

6. **Agree or Disagree** - Whenever we are content to walk away from a relationship without honestly trying to be reconciled, it is what God's Word would call not loving/hating my brothers and sisters.

APPLICATION

STOP & PRAY | Close Out Conversation

Pray through one small ACTION of love you can do for the following people in your life this week...(actions like: note, card, words of affirmation, act of service, call).

- Spouse
- Child
- Mom
- Dad
- Boss
- Co-Worker



Close by praying for the group.

NOTES

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