

True Love?

Insights on Romans 12:9-21

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, February 25, 2018

What is true love?

(Romans 12:9-21, 1 Corinthians 13, Luke 23:24, Matthew 5:44)

1. True love _____

2. True love _____

3. True love _____

4. True love _____

- _____ others

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 7” of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God’s Word with others. We pray this is a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepen friendships and make new friends along the way!

Looking Back:

Each week we’ll look and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging or not so encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. This week we had the opportunity to talk about “True Love.” What is a movie that you have watched that is a love story that is a “must see” movie and why? Guys... even you need to answer!

2. True love is a very important element in the life of a Christian. It is important because God told us that his very nature is love, and we are commanded to love one another. Why is it so hard to live out the command of God to love each other?

Each week in “looking back,” we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and share how we applied something to our daily lives that we learned or discussed previously from God’s Word.

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or needs some clarification?

Looking Up:

1. Jesus' life here on earth has given us an incredible example of love in action. He perfectly modeled a love that often times feels impossible for us to do. Read **John 15:9-17** together and take note of all the ways Jesus tells his followers to live out the kind of love that he had for others.

What part of this passage is the most helpful to you in what it means to live out his love?

2. Jesus gave us so many examples of what it looks like to love other people. He not only showed us how to love but he gave several commands for us to love as well. Read the following passages of Scripture and note how Jesus either showed love or commanded us to love those around us.

- **Luke 23:33-34, Matthew 5:43-48, 1 John 3:16-18**

Which of these commands or examples are most challenging for you to follow? How can you better follow his examples or commands this week?

3. We learned this past weekend that true love "Accentuates the positive." This is based on Romans 12:9. We are to "Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good." This seems as if it would be a paradox. How can we as Christians "love our enemies" and "cling to what is good" and yet still abhor evil?

4. Romans 12:9-21 is a great passage teaching followers of Jesus what it means to truly love others. Another very important passage teaching us to love is 1 Corinthians 13. Read 1 Corinthians 13 as a group. Take note of words or phrases that you find encouraging or challenging as a follower of Christ to live out.

What are those phrases that you found particularly encouraging or challenging? What do you think the Spirit is calling you to do this week to live in light of his love a little more?

Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week. If you are willing, share this with the group.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking...

- One way to show love for others is to pray for them. Who is a person in your life that has been particularly difficult for you to love? Begin to pray for them this week.
- We are called to live peaceably with others. If you are at fault with someone and it is causing disunity, ask forgiveness and move towards reconciliation.
- Relationships can be very difficult but true love perseveres. Pray for God's strength to persevere.

As we look forward to this week, let's pray for one another!