

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 1 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **May 7, 2017** sermon, "True Love." Please read the sermon passage (1 John 3:11-18) together out loud.

IN ORDER TO LOVE AUTHENTICALLY, NOTE . . .

### 1) The expectation that God sets for us. (11)

- a) Christ showed us God's love by dying for us on the cross, and being raised the third day.
  - i) True love is SACRIFICIAL, not self-serving.
  - ii) True love is SHAPED BY GOD'S WILL, not our feelings.
  - iii) True love MEETS NEEDS, not merely wants.
  - iv) True love is CONTINUAL, not intermittent or "when we feel like it."
  - v) True love is ETERNAL, directing us to Jesus, not temporary (all about me).
- b) Believers are called to express love to one another.

### 2) The examples that God contrasts. (12-16)

- a) Note the comparison: CAIN CHRIST
  - (i) the murderer the life-giving one
  - (ii) serves himself laid down his life for his friends
- b) Note that TOLERANCE SAYS . . . but LOVE SAYS . . .
  - i) You must approve of what I do I love even when I disagree.
  - ii) You must agree with me I tell you the truth because it frees.
  - iii) Allow me to have my way I plead with you to follow the right way.
- c) Note the love of Christ. He laid down his life "for us." (v.16)
- d) Note the love of Christ-followers. We lay down our lives "for the brothers." (v.16)

### 3) The expressions of love that God desires. (17-18)

- a) Share what you have.
- b) With brothers in need.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Note the 5 phrases describing real love above (under 1. A.). Discuss these factors. Which phrase do you most easily or readily practice? Which is most elusive to you? How can you love more like Christ?
2. Based on #2, above: We live in a world that values tolerance above everything. But love is harder than tolerance. Describe a relationship that you have which is being affected by the expectation of tolerance. In what ways are you progressing from "tolerance" to "love"?
3. Based on #2, above: Showing love is hard. In fact, it will empty us. But Christ's love fills us. How does Christ's example of laying down his life for us enable you to lay down your life for the brothers? How does the Holy Spirit (who lives in you) empower you to love selflessly?
4. Based on #3, above: The Scriptures teach us to be generous with our worldly goods. We should be ready to share with a brother in need. How are you doing with that?