

# Kingdom Identity - Love

A disciple of Jesus Christ is inspired and empowered to love by Christ's sacrificial love.



## Adult LifeGroups

The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

John 18:15-18; John 18:25-27; John 21:15-19

January 5, 2020

**TODAY'S TEXT**—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

**Text: John 18:15-18**

Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard,<sup>16</sup> but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.<sup>17</sup> "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."<sup>18</sup> It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

**John 18:25-27**

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."<sup>26</sup> One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?"<sup>27</sup> Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

**John 21:15-19**

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."<sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."<sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

## FIRST THOUGHTS

Today we begin a new series in LifeGroups called "Kingdom Identity". We will look at 4 characteristics that defined the life of Christ and how they should define our lives as well. We will see how we are to take on a new identity now that we are in His kingdom.

- When we meet someone, we often look for clues as to where they are from. It's almost an unconscious activity as we listen to them talk, look at what they wear, and examine their appearance. Think about where you grew up. What characteristics of that place did you take on? Some examples could be accents, customs, traditions, vocabulary, outlook, fashion, etc.
- If you had to name one characteristic that defines Christians, what do you think it would be? Why?

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).*

- Who is our "one another"? Why do our love for God and our love for one another go hand in hand?
- What did Jesus mean when He said for the disciples to love one another in the same way He loved them? What did Jesus's love look like?
- How might thinking deeply on what Christ has done for us cause us to truly love others?

> **Have a volunteer read John 18:15-18,25-27**

The events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion also give us one of the clearest examples of what our love should look like through the failure and forgiveness of Peter, one of Jesus' disciples. During Jesus' trial, Peter denied knowing Him on three occasions.

- How do you see Peter's impulsiveness influencing his denial of Jesus?
- Why was denying Jesus unfathomable to Peter (see John 13:33-38)? What emotions might Peter have felt in that moment when he realized that Jesus' prophecy had come true?
- List some ways we deny knowing Jesus in our speech, actions, or lack of either. How do you combat the temptation to deny your association with God?

> **Have a volunteer read John 21:15-19**

Three times Peter had denied Jesus, and at this meeting on the shoreline, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three times, each canceling out a denial. Their dialogue makes it clear that in God's eyes, love far outweighs failure. That kind of love would propel Peter to spend the rest of his life spreading the good news of the gospel.

- How did Jesus demonstrate love to Peter in this conversation?
- Look again at their dialogue in these verses. What did Jesus ask Peter to do? Based on what you know about Peter's life, how did he handle the task?
- What do you think Peter's life would have been like without this conversation?
- In what ways are you encouraged by Jesus' conversation with Peter?
- Imagine that you were standing on the beach with Jesus that day. How would you answer His questions?

## SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

**Why do you think love is such a defining mark of the Christian? Do we tend to think of love as the primary mark of the Christian life? If not, what do we think of as that mark? Why?**

**What most frequently stands in the way of you truly loving others?**

**What are some tangible expressions of this kind of love you might practice this week: At your workplace? In your home? With your friends?**

**What does love look like in your life this week? Is there a broken relationship that needs mending? A person that needs help? An attitude you need to replace with kindness?**

## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Perhaps the most famous passage on love comes in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. Read these verses and look for specific ways that love behaves. Which one do you need to focus on in your life this week?
- Next week we will look at how a disciple of Christ forgives others. Read next week's passage in Matthew 18:21-35.

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

**5th** – Genesis 12-14; Luke 5 | **6th** – Genesis 15-17; Luke 6 | **7th** – Genesis 18-19; Psalm 3; Luke 7 | **8th** – Genesis 20-22; Luke 8 | **9th** – Genesis 23-24; Luke 9 | **10th** – Genesis 25-26; Psalm 6; Luke 10 | **11th** – Genesis 27-28; Psalm 4; Luke 11

### Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH  
FOR THE UNCHURCHED,  
HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD.

### Adult LifeGroups:

A GOSPEL-CENTERED COMMUNITY  
THAT AIMS TO KNOW GOD TOGETHER  
AND BE CHANGED BY HIM IN A WAY  
THAT WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.