

Small Group Discussion 5/2/2021

Family Resemblance

1 John 4:7-12



Getting Started

- Who is someone in your life (past or present) in whom the presence of God was clearly manifested by the way they loved? Do you know how this person viewed the love of God toward them?
- Do you know of a story (perhaps your own) where someone burned out because following Jesus became more about earning God's love instead of receiving it?

Static Questions

- **WHAT IS THE PASSAGE ABOUT?**
 - Note the key details (Who, What, When, Where, Why, etc.)
 - Pay attention to the main Facts of the passage.
- **WHAT DID YOU LEARN?**
 - What does the passage reveal about God? About people?
 - Is there a promise or a command or a warning?
 - What is the main truth of the passage?
 - What lessons do you see?
- **HOW WILL YOU APPLY IT?**
 - How does this passage relate to your life right now?
 - What change in your thinking or behavior is needed to align with the truths in this passage?
 - How should you respond based on what you learned?

From the Sermon this Morning

- What might be signs that we are loving more out of fear (or in an attempt to earn love) instead of the freedom that comes from knowing we are already loved?
- How should Christ's model of obedience to the Father (not out of a need to earn His Father's approval) impact the way we should view obedience to God?
- Why do you think in the U.S. we so often struggle with having an "earn it" mentality instead of a "respond to it" mentality? What are ways we can counter this way of thinking/living?

Application

- What are practical reminders you can place in your day to remind you of the love the Father has for you? (i.e. alarm on your phone, Bible verse on your bathroom mirror, etc.)
- What are practical ways your small group can love each other? Love the rest of the body? Love the rest of the community?
- After your small group, take time this week to read Psalm 111 and 112, and notice the way the descriptions of God in 111 are then used to describe the God follower in 112. How do these Psalms reflect what we studied in 1 John 4 today?



Augustine said, "The more ardently we love God, the more certainly and calmly do we see him, because we see in God the unchanging form of justice, according to which we judge how one ought to live." -- De Trinitate 8.9.13

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