

BCC Connection Group Questions: February 19, 2023 (Week 3)
SERMON SERIES: "THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE"

*Leaders Note: Just a reminder that this is a guide to help facilitate your group. You do not have to cover all of the material on this lesson.

READ: John 13:34-35, Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 12:9, Colossians 1:21-22, John 3:16

OPEN:

- o Share a moment from your week when you encountered the love of God?
- o Have you ever been in a place where you felt distinctly different and how did you feel? Briefly share.
- o How do we love those that are distinctly different? What are some ways to demonstrate this to the world?

DIG:

Read: Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT)

- o Jesus says in Matt. 5:43-44, presents a different picture on love when He said to, "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Describe why this is countercultural in Jesus' time and in 2023.
- o What does loving our enemies or those who persecute us demonstrate to the world?
- o Who can we love those distinctly different than us in the world, as Christ calls us, without accepting their agenda?
- o Jesus' challenges believers in Matt. 5:46-48 by saying that, "If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that?" what good is that! Everybody is nice to their friends; it takes a person of maturity and strength to love those who can do nothing for them. What is required of the follower of Jesus in practicing our faith?
- o Discuss: Love is actively doing what the Lord prefers with Him, Jesus living His life through us. Love by choice not by circumstances.
- o Discuss Agape love. (agapao) – to love, actively doing what the LORD prefers, with HIM by His power and direction.

Read: Colossians 1:21-22 (NLT)

- o According to Paul in this passage, how were you and I once far from God?
- o How are we reconciled to God?
- o How does God see each one of us?
- o What is the call of believers of Christ to those who are hostile toward us?
- o Romans 12:9 (NLT) call us to specific things in this passage? (Leaders Note: love others, don't pretend but do it, hate what is wrong, cling to what is good)

REFLECT:

- o Do you have enemies in your life?
- o In Luke 10:39 (NLT) Jesus addresses the "who is my neighbor?" attitude. Why do we look for loopholes (reasons not to love) and make those our enemies, who have a different demographic, socio-economic status, race, different political worldview, or sexual orientation than us?
- o What is the focus of Biblical love? What is the attitude of the heart to loving our enemies or those distinctly different?
- o Discuss the Big Idea from this past Sunday: By loving those in the world demonstrates these three things: 1) We are children of God. 2) We are different than the world. 3) We are mature in Christ.
- o What are the two or three things the Holy Spirit spoke most clearly to you this this connection group today and how will you respond to Him?

VISION OPPORTUNITIES:

XO MARRIAGE CONFERENCE At Bridge City Church we value marriages. If you are married or engaged, if you starting a family, blending families, or enjoying an empty nest, there is always something new to learn. Make plans to join us and receive valuable tools and resources so you and your spouse can draw closer to each other and to God. Matt Loehr(LA-her) from Dare to e Different will be joining us as guest speaker. March 11, 9 AM -1 PM, North Braddock Campus \$20 per person early bird; \$25 per person starting on February 27 Childcare: \$10 per family Register online or at the Connection Point.