

The Authentic Christian and Brotherly Love — November 11 & 12, 2017
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Luke 10:25-37

- What question was posed to Jesus (25)? How did he respond (26)? What did the expert in the law go on to say (27)? What clarifying question did he ask (29)? Jesus answered by telling a parable; summarize it (30-35). Describe each character (30-33).
- What are your initial thoughts on the “expert in the law”? Did he really care about loving others, or was he concerned about something else? What was it? How motivated are you to love others? To what extent is it a driving force in your life?
- After concluding the parable, what did Jesus ask the man (36)? What was his response (37)? How do you think it must’ve felt for him to acknowledge this? What did Jesus then say (37)? Imagine him issuing this same practical command to you: go and *do* likewise. Today, what is one way to obey it?

Day Two: John 13:1-17

- Set the scene of this text (1-2). Describe the way Jesus loves (1). What is your response to this sort of love? What was Judas planning to do (2)? What did Jesus know about this plan (10-11)? During the meal, what did he do (4-5)? Why (3)?
- Summarize Jesus’ conversation with Peter (6-10). What did he then explain to the disciples (12-17)? What does he want them to do (14-15)? How does Jesus, in both the disciples’ eyes and your own, challenge the notion of what it means to show love? Which imagery or phrases especially capture this? Explain.
- Think about how this applies to your own life and what God desires of you. How exactly does Jesus want you to “do as he has done for you”? In what specific ways can you use any position of power or influence to express the sacrificial love of Jesus to others? Pray for grace to walk this out.

Day Three: John 15:9-17

- Describe the love between the Father, the Son and those who follow God (9-10). Why did Jesus share this information with his disciples (11)? What is his command to us (12)? What is the greatest act of love (13)? Meditate on verses 12-13. What do you think of Jesus’ standard of love? How do you think he wants you to demonstrate it to others?
- What does it mean to be Jesus’ friend (14-15)? According to this definition, can you count yourself among his friends? Invite the Lord to speak to you about this; what does he have to say? Why does Jesus call people to himself (16)?
- What command did Jesus then reiterate (17)? Honestly consider your willingness to sacrifice, experience pain, be inconvenienced, and even lay down your life in order to “love each other.” What keeps you from obeying this command? As you reflect, visualize Jesus approaching you and offering his sacrificial love. In this space, what is he saying to you?

Day Four: Ephesians 4:29—5:2

- What should we avoid (4:29)? What should we be sure to speak about (29)? Ask God to make you aware of your speech in the moment, that you’d always speak in love so as to build others up.
- Whom should we not grieve (30)? It’s the Holy Spirit living inside each of us who makes it possible to love one another. When we fail to fulfill this command, how do you think God feels?

- What must we get rid of (31)? Which of these sins are a particular struggle for you? Repent and ask the Lord for power to pursue a better way. How should we treat one another (32)? In the last week, when has someone shown kindness or compassion to you, or forgiven you? How do you think God wants you to respond?
- Whose example should we follow (5:1)? What does this entail (2)? Following God in this way, not because we are coerced but because we are his dearly loved children, should be the mark of each Christian. How do you display this mark?

Day Five: 1 John 4:7-21

- How does loving one another demonstrate connection to God (7-8, 12)? What do you think of these stark terms? How does God demonstrate his love for us (9-10)? What does this sort of love bring to your life? How should we respond to it (11)?
- What makes it possible to love God and deeply experience life with him (13-16)? Reflect on the phrase “God is love”? How do you think he feels to be described this way?
- How is God’s love “made complete among us” (17)? Meditate on the phrase “in this world we are like Jesus.” How do you emulate the Lord? What role does fear play in God’s love (18)? Ask the Lord to drive out your fears with his perfect love. What is this biggest change this transformation would make bring to your life?
- What makes it possible to love others (19)? When we fail in this mission, what becomes evident (20-21)? Ask God to reveal any hate in your heart. What do you think he wants you to do with it?