



Message Discussion Guide Week of September 18, 2022

Message: Fruitful, Part 2: Love

Key Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21

Preacher: Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

“All you need is love.” These simple lyrics from the Beatles point to the truth: most people (regardless of religious faith) believe that more love would make a better world. The challenge is defining what love is and how we can create more of it.

In the New Testament, love is lifted up as the most central feature of the Christian life. Paul called it the most important of the spiritual gifts, and Jesus said that love for God and others is the greatest commandment.

In 1 John 4, we learn three things about God’s love

- God is the source of all love
- Love is the evidence of genuine faith
- God is love

The way we can show love for God is by sharing love with others. God is not visible in the world, but we are. The world will see God when they see us sharing Christ-like love.

The best way to ripen the fruit of love in our lives, is to begin to love the things that God loves. We should understand God’s heart and then seek to align our hearts with God’s heart.

Discussion Questions:

1. Look up and listen to the Beatles 1967 song, “All you Need is Love.” Why did this simple song resonate with millions of people? Do you agree that love is all we need? Why is it so hard to cultivate love in our world?
2. Pastor Tom said that God is the source of all love. Do you feel like most people look to God for love? If not, where else do people turn to find love? What are the consequences of looking for love without looking to God?

3. Read 1 John 4:7-16

- What do these verses say about love?
 - How does God show love for us?
 - How can we show love for others?
4. Pastor Tom shared a story about how his grandma grew to love the Steelers, not because she loved football, but because she loved Pastor Tom. What are the things that God loves? How can you cultivate a love for the same things in your life.
5. When you look at your life, where do you see evidence of God's love shining through you? In what areas do you need to grow in love? Who do you find to be difficult to love? How can you better show God's love?

Call to Action: Identify one concrete action you can take to show God's love to someone in your life, and then do it.