

Sept 8/24 – Small Group Questions
1 John 4: 7-19; John 21:15-17 - “Love God”

Read 1 John 4: 7-16

John is writing to a church that is struggling with theological confusion. The apostles have left and new teachers have come in preaching a different gospel. John writes to reorient this church to the heart of the gospel. This section is bracketed by one of his main points – true gospel conviction bears love as its primary fruit.

1. (vs. 9-10) What are the two expressions of God’s love for us in Jesus? What does each look like and how are they related?

Read Mark 14: 26-29; 43-50; 53-54; 66-72 & John 21:15-17

Jesus work on the cross is about carrying away sin that his life, his zoe, his very presence may take up residence within us. In Peter’s story we have a glorious picture of this work of Jesus.

2. What do you notice about Jesus’ work in Peter’s life?
3. Have you had an experience of this work of Jesus in your own life that would be of mutual encouragement to your group? Were some of the elements that were present in Peter’s story present in your own? What impact has that had on your life?

Jesus perfecting love in Peter’s life is shaping him for the task of leading the church out of his encounter with grace. John goes on in his letter to reveal the ultimate goal of Jesus’ perfecting love in our lives.

Read 1 John 4: 17-19

4. What is the day of judgement? What does it look like to have confidence “for” it?
5. How does this confidence “for” the day of judgement shape us to be as Jesus is in the world?
6. In the sermon Tim gave the illustration that for an electrical circuit to work as intended it must be properly connected to the power. Similarly, we must be rightly connected to God’s love for us in Jesus so that everything else in the Christian life works as intended. How do our regular patterns of worship rightly connect us to the love of God in Jesus so that everything else in the Christian life works as intended?