

5/14/17

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

How has your relationship with Jesus impacted your growth in love towards others? Give examples- try to focus on what God is doing currently or recently.

What's John's point in emphasizing that the commandment to love is an "old" commandment? (i.e. it's not some innovation, an added measure, but it's connected to the very heart of the gospel, in which they had believed.)

How is the commandment to love also very much a "new" commandment? In what ways? (in emphasis- all OT teaching hangs on this; in example- Jesus' love; in extent- self-sacrificial etc.)

There is no place for hate in the life of a true Christian. Hate can range from despising someone to being indifferent towards them. Are there Christian brothers and sisters in your life in which you hold on to some version of hatred? How can we pray for you?

Paul is speaking about a pattern: an ongoing, habitual, continual pattern of hate. Why is that so important to keep in mind as we fight to love well in our lives? (i.e. we will fight the temptation to hate others, but if we dwell in the light, we will not be able to hold a pattern of hatred in our hearts indefinitely)

Why do you think John (and Jesus) emphasizes our love for other Christians as much as he does?

Do you see a growing love in your heart for other Christians? What are some practical ways that you could love fellow brothers and sisters in Christ better?

If we, together, lived out this passage to love as a church, how would that look? What would be different? Pray that our church would embody this passage, one person at a time.