

Home Group Questions - December 2, 2018

from Michael Womble

1. Did any of you go shopping on Black Friday or Cyber Monday this year?
2. Are you the type of person that looks forward to and enjoys buying gifts for others?
3. Read 1 John 4:7-21 with your group
4. In verses 11 and 19, John says that we should love for one simple reason: Because God first loved us. Our loving others is a joyous response to love we have received. What other motivations might we have, as Christians, to love?
5. In verse 20, John says that “Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar.” John makes it pretty clear that if someone does not have love in their heart for their neighbor, they cannot truly be a follower of God. In fact, in verse 21 he says that it is a command from God that we must love others.
 - In what ways do you fall short in your daily life of living out this command from God to “love your brother and sister”?
 - If someone were to evaluate your life compared to the average person in our society based solely on whether or not you love others, would it be clear to them that God is in you?
 - How can we learn to love others and be generous with others in such a way that we would stand out and make it abundantly clear to others that God lives in us?
6. I (Michael) find verses 17-18 to be some of the most challenging verses in all of scripture. Even though I know and believe in all of the promises that God gives us about receiving forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus, I still sometimes find myself worrying that I will not make it to heaven. The devil knows how to tempt me in this area, I suppose. But here, John says that we can be so confident in God’s love for us, that it should drive out all fear. He also says that if we are loving others like Jesus did, his love is made complete in us, which also gives us confidence for the day of judgment.
 - Do you ever struggle with these same fears?
 - Why and how does “perfect love drive out fear” for the Christian?
 - What do you picture when you think about someone in which “love is made complete” and someone who is “like Jesus”?
7. Usually, during the holidays we give gifts but also expect to receive gifts in return. As we enter the “season of giving”, it is helpful to remember that God loved us first, knowing that we could never repay the gift that he gave us. How can we be generous to others this Christmas season without expecting anything in return?