

Group/Individual Study

Series - "Love Does"

Passages: 1 John 4:7-16, 19; Eph 3:17b-19

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 4/8

1. Read 1 John 4:7-16, 19. Sunday's message kept describing God's love as "Love of another kind". How is the love that God has brought into the world different than every other love?
2. This "love of another kind" begins to show up in God's people as we come to know Him and as we abide in Him over time. Tell of a time when you saw a person who follows Jesus and lives out "love of another kind"; that is "love" that can't be explained apart from the work of Jesus in him/her.
3. 1 John 4:7-16 & 19 describe truths about love and how love works. Pull out as many truths about love as you can find in these verses. Which of these are most meaningful to you today? Why?
4. Our passage culminates with verse 19 which says, "We love because he first loved us." How does experiencing God's love empower love in us? In light of this truth, what habits or experiences help you to experience God's love more regularly and more deeply?
5. Read Ephesians 3:17b-19. Paul described the love of God here as being fathomless; like the layers of an onion, that's always deeper than we think it is. How is the love of God "high"? How is it "long"? How is it "deep"? How is it "wide"?
6. Paul uses a play on words at the end of v.19; he prays that Jesus' followers may "know" (in an experiential sense) this love that "surpasses knowledge" (that will always exceed our understanding and ability to wrap words around). When you are carried away with the love of God, how does it affect the way you live? Your state of mind and your emotions? How you treat other people?