

God's destination, my journey



Part 7

Synopsis

Love is another essential quality in the journey that God has laid out for us. When the Apostle Paul was writing to the Corinthian church in his first letter he reminded that that out of faith, hope and love, love is the most important quality we can have in the Christian life. (v. 13:13)

One day faith and hope will be no more. One day we will see God and experience His promises for resurrection, eternal life and heaven. But love, love will go on for eternity, because love has to do with relationships. One day in heaven, when the things of this world become a faint memory, we will continue to love God and love one another. *"Love never ends."*

We discover the quality of love as we abide in the True Vine Jesus. Jesus invites us to "abide" in Him that we may bear much fruit. And that primary fruit that God desires to produce in us in this journey called life is our "love for one another." (John 15). So let us "abide in His love" that we may discover the fullness of His joy in us. This is what makes the journey meaningful and the destination glorious.

Cross References

Mark 10:17-22

I John 3:16

John 15:8-14

John 15:8-14

The essential quality of love

Getting Started

- **Fellowship and Coffee**
- **Prayer and Share**
- **Report on missional focus**

Questions

1. **Review:** our last session we looked at the quality of hope. The primary difference between worldly hope and godly hope is that one lasts while the other doesn't. Review Romans 5:1-5 and discuss how we can discover this hope despite the struggles we have in the journey of life.
2. **Jesus' life on earth and death show us God's perfect expression of love. While Jesus healed the sick, delivered many from demons, and brought sight to the blind, the account of the rich young ruler shows us another aspect of God's love. Read Mark 10:17-22 and discuss this other aspect of God's love.**
3. **Read I John 3:16 and discuss how Jesus' sacrifice on the cross demonstrates God's love. How does the Apostle John invite us to respond to this love with those around us?**

Questions (cont')

4. Selfishness is our number one enemy to Christ-likeness. As we point ourselves towards God, discuss how Christ's presence and power can transform us to be more loving and less selfish people.
5. Read John 15:5-14 and discuss how an abiding relationship with Jesus, the True Vine, will always produce fruit that expresses God's love to the world around us. Discuss your own struggles with obeying this one basic command of Christ in your marriage, with your neighbors and with those God puts in your path.

Missional Corner

One of the goals for each small group is to take on a missional project. What this means is that your small group should chose over the next few months an outward expression of faith to bless the community around you in Jesus' name. Jesus taught is that we are salt and light, therefore, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
(Matthew 5:13-16)

Memory verse of the week I John 3:16

"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

Greek



ἀγάπη

agapē
Love

The idea is to be charitable, looking outward, not inward. Sacrificial love, not looking to what one may benefit out of it

Small Group News

Freehold group

The Suozzos, Patelunas and Dellaportes have recently decided to come along side a family in the church who are moving into a new home. They have planned for February to take a Saturday out of their month and paint, clean and do whatever can help this family have the smoothest transition possible.

Building Committee

A building committee in the church is working not only to keep up the church property but also is tending to a list of elderly, widows and others in the congregation who have painting, minor maintenance repairs and other needs in their home.