

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 1 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **June 25, 2017** sermon, "The Source of Love." Please read the sermon passage (1 John 4:7-12) together out loud.

Three things to consider:

1. The Nature of God (v7-8)
  - a. God is love, but love is not God.
  - b. The reality that "God is love" (v8) points to the reality of his triune nature.
  - c. Love is self-giving for the good and joy of another, and that is part of God's very nature.
  - d. The doctrine of the Trinity explains the deepest longings of the heart.
  
2. The Work of God (v9-10)
  - a. Christ was sent to be the propitiation for our sins. Simply put, propitiation means "to appease someone's wrath." It's a wrath-removing sacrifice.
  - b. It makes perfect sense that God's perfect holiness, justice, and love demanded the work of Christ on the cross.
  - c. God loved us before we existed (Eph. 1.4-5).
  - d. God's love is an *initiating* love; ours is a *responding* love.
  
3. The Call of God (v11-12)
  - a. God loved us with initiating, costly, sacrificing love. Therefore, our natural response is to love in the same way.
  - b. While truly loving others is difficult, it is God's call on our lives as his people so that we can display the power of the gospel.
  - c. Love shown between Christians is the best way for the world to recognize the reality of Christianity.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The holy and all-powerful and living God devoted himself to give his only Son for the good of others (those who trust him). This is true love. Try to begin to describe how you benefit from God's love, even to this day.
  
2. Based on #1, above: The eternal perfections of God's love is seen in the Trinity. God is one in essence, three in persons. He has displayed love within the Trinity for eternity. The Trinity is a crucial aspect of evangelical theology. Do you often discuss the Trinity in your conversations with unbelievers? How do those conversations usually progress? Why is it important to discuss the Trinity with unbelievers and those who seem to be seeking Jesus Christ?
  
3. Based on #2, above: Discuss this statement: "Because God is loving, he has wrath against sin." How can you talk about this in conversations with unbelievers? Only Jesus (God) can satisfy God's righteous wrath against sin. Again, discuss the love of God.
  
4. Based on #3, above: God calls you to love others in the same way that he loves you. Discuss.