

I John – Love

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I John 2:7-17

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**Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**John talks A LOT about love in this letter**

We misunderstand sometimes what it means to love people and not love the world.

\*What is your take on the phrase ‘Love the sinner, hate the sin’?

**John paints a picture of love imposing itself on the world**

Read and discuss I John 2:7-8(ESV)

*<sup>7</sup> Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. <sup>8</sup> At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.*

\*What do these verses say about God? About people?

\*Why do you think John is saying this is an old commandment made new?

**John reminds us that perfected love is a process of letting God have his way in our hearts**

The process we are all in matters because it frees us to love.

Read and discuss I John 2:12-14(ESV)

*<sup>12</sup> I am writing to you, little children,  
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.*

*<sup>13</sup> I am writing to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.*

*I am writing to you, young men,  
because you have overcome the evil one.*

*I write to you, children,  
because you know the Father.*

*<sup>14</sup> I write to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.*

*I write to you, young men,  
because you are strong,  
and the word of God abides in you,  
and you have overcome the evil one.*

\*What do these verses say about our journey and progress in relationship with God?

\*How does understanding this process, for ourselves and others, free us to love? Have you experienced this in your life?

**When we're in the darkness – we actually go blind**

There is no cause for stumbling when we abide in the light.

Read and discuss I John 2:9-11(ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. <sup>10</sup> Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. <sup>11</sup> But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

\*Have you ever lost your sense of spiritual direction because of hatred in your heart?

\*How does loving our brother keep us abiding in the light?

### **When John talks about not loving the world, he's talking about the effect of the world in US**

He's warning us against the desires of our own flesh, our own eyes and our own pride.

Read and discuss | John 2:15-17(ESV)

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

\*What do these verses say about God? About people?

\*How does our understanding of the word 'world' help us to apply this verse?

\*How might the world be affecting the desires of your flesh, eyes or pride right now?

\*Where is he calling you to love the way he loves?

**Visual reflection (Visio Divina)\*** [1 John 2:16-17](#) by Full of Eyes

**Song for reflection** [Light in the Darkness](#) by Ian Wong