

Sunday, June 18, 2023 - "Hypocrite - Week 1 - 1 John Overview" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Revelation 2:1-5, 1 John 5:13, 1 John 2:1 & 15, 1 John 3:6-18

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- 1 John is a blueprint for becoming more and more like Jesus
- We are all hypocrites...but that's not an excuse for bad behavior
- 1 John - context
 - After Revelation (John released from exile on Patmos)
 - Written to the same churches as Revelation —>This is how you and I can live into/out faith in Jesus
 - Pastoral letter: tender, intentional, churches directly under his leadership
 - Church at Ephesus (his "home" church) was specifically on his mind
- Revelation 2:5 - church at Ephesus
 - hardworking and striving for good theology, patient endurance in holding to scripture
 - BUT...they had a love deficiency
- Problem with North American church - 2 camps
 - 1. Bible/truth doesn't really matter
 - 2. Truth is used to bludgeon/judge the sin of others
 - It doesn't have to be one or the other
- "Truth without love is brutally. Love without truth us hypocrisy." - Warren Wiersbe
- We are called to repent
 - Weaving truth with love is dependent on our repentance
 - When we realize we are loved/forgiven much we love and forgive much
- Doug's summary of 1 John = Fundamentals of Christianity: Faith, Holiness, and Love
- Faith - assurance, right theology, believing the tight things deeply
 - 1 John 5:13 - know the eternal life we have
 - Confidence (1 John 2:28)
- Holiness - 1 John 2:1 & 15
 - Exhorts us to live a lie that honors God
 - Willful refusal to live like Jesus says is main reason people reject Jesus
 - 1 John 3:6..keeps on
- Love - 18 times in the letter
 - Agape - action, unselfish, purposeful, extended regardless of circumstance
 - Receiving people how Jesus receives us
 - Never compromising truth but always extending love 1 John 3:18
- It doesn't require a church program to extend agape love...love where you are, invite someone to your table

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Where do you find yourself doing what you shouldn't or not doing what you should?
2. What have you learned about living like Jesus in everything you say and do?
3. How have you seen or experienced truth without love? How have you seen or experienced love without truth?
4. How have you experienced agape love changing your heart/family/community?
5. What does it look like to receive people the way that Jesus has received you?
6. How does God's love and forgiveness prompt you to love and forgive others?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[Here For You - *Matt Redman*] - [Jesus We Love You - *Bethel Music*] - [I Speak Jesus - *Charity Gayle*] - [How Great Is Our God - *Chris Tomlin*]