

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

1 JOHN SERIES

These questions are for the **July 16, 2017** sermon, "When Fear is Cast Out." Please read the sermon passage (1 John 4:17-21) together out loud.

WHEN CONSIDERING THE LOVE OF GOD, NOTE . . .

1. The expression of God's love toward us (17-18)
 - a. God's love, exhibited within the Trinity, is offered to us at the cross of Jesus Christ.
 - b. As the Day of Judgment approaches, God's love produces confidence (not fear!).
 - c. The casting away of fear depends upon the finished work of Jesus Christ.
2. The expression of God's love through us (19-21)
 - a. We love because he loved us first.
 - b. God's love is felt as we love others with the same love that God has first loved us.
 - c. A verbal claim to "love God" is disproven if we do not love "our brother."
 - d. The growing follower of Jesus Christ must extend love to fellow believers.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God is love. He could have reserved love within the Trinity, hoarding it unto himself. But he chose to share it, to extend it, to manifest it toward those who belong to him. Try to begin to describe the benefits of serving God, belonging to him and living in his love for you.
2. Based on #1, above: As the Day of Judgment approaches, God's love should be producing more confidence in your heart. You are no longer a slave to fear, but are a child of God. In what ways is this true of you? In the areas where it is not true, how might you grow? In what ways does a certainty that God will judge produce love and confidence in your heart?
3. Based on #2, above: You don't have to wait for others (a dad, a mom, a spouse or a child) to show love to you before you are ready to love others. Even if you do not "see love" in your own life, you have seen it and experience it in your own life because God loves you. How does this truth help you to risk loving others? extend love to even those who might be considered "enemies"? How can this truth help you stop making excuses for "hating [your] brother"?
4. Based on #2, above: True love can rejoice that God will judge in righteousness. You don't have. How does this truth free you from a vindictive spirit? How does it free you from keeping score? How does it free you to love even if you have been hurt by a fellow believer? What work do you have to do this week to repair a relationship that has been harmed by a lack of love?