

Love, Part 2

Small Group Discussion Questions

SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning. Follow the worship liturgy and watch our [Vimeo](#) videos at granthamchurch.org/liturgy.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for engaging with us online!

Sunday, February 14th 2020



Sermon Title: Love Your Neighbor

Scripture Reading: Matt 22:36-40; John 13:34-35; 1 Cor 13:4-7; 1 John 4:7-12, 20-21

Sermon Focus: Jesus said that our love for God must include the love of our neighbor (and our enemies), or it isn't true love. But what does this love look like? And why is it the distinguishing mark of a Christ-follower? While some may look for an excuse or a way around this command, Jesus doesn't leave us with any wiggle room. Listen as Pastor David invites us to respond to our neighbors by asking: *What does love require?*

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call!
Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began his sermon by sharing a story of his experience as a young person working for an older man in his church whose love for God did not include loving his

neighbor, particularly how he treated his employees. Share of a time when you experienced this in your journey. How did you feel? Also, how have these experiences *positively* impacted the way you treat others?

2. Read Matthew 22:36-40 together. Notice how Jesus sums up the Hebrew Scriptures with love of God and neighbor, saying: "All of the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." In other words, as Christians, if you're ever unclear of how to interpret or apply what you're reading in the OT, Jesus says it's simple: love God and love your neighbor. Knowing Jesus had a high view of Scripture, what do you find most helpful about this?
3. In Luke 10:30-37, Jesus tells a parable in response to the question: "Who is my neighbor?" This question is asked because in Leviticus 19:17-18 the neighbor is a fellow Israelite. But the point of Jesus' story is to broaden our definition of what it means to love our neighbor by including love of enemies (Matt 5:43-48). How did Jesus model this? What do you find most difficult about this teaching?
4. While there have certainly been folks in the church who have used love and forgiveness as a way of protecting the abuser and allowing them to continue victimizing people, which is a serious concern, Pastor David said that "most of us are not in any real danger, we just want an excuse not to deal with our own junk and do what Christ has called us to do" in loving others and doing the hard work of reconciliation. Have you noticed how quickly our culture (and the church) gives up and walks away from relationships instead of doing what love requires? Why do you think this happens? What can we do to reverse this trend?
5. Pastor David said: "If you see someone withholding love or failing to love, it is because they themselves have that much more to go in knowing and experiencing just how much God loves them, has forgiven them, and has freed them from guilt, shame, and those things that have enslaved them to sins like anger, bitterness, impatience, judgementalism, gossip, prejudice, and projecting their own brokenness, hurts, and pains onto you." What do you think of this?
6. How is God calling you to love, forgive, and be reconciled to someone?