

Living in the Light

A STUDY IN 1ST JOHN

Pastor Dave Patterson
Living in the Light Part 3—Who Do You Love?
5.2.2021

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[1 John 5:13, AMP]

I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know** (with settled and absolute assurance) that you have eternal life.

[1 John 2:15-17]

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

KOSMOS = The world's systems, values and ways of thinking and living

[1 John 5:19, AMP]

We know [for a fact] that we are of God, and the whole world **(kosmos)** around us lies in the power of the evil one [opposing God and His precepts].

[John 17:15-16]

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world **(kosmos)**, even as I am not of it.

There's an inward groaning that we need to articulate. You have not been designed to be comfortable in this world; we are in a tension of going through this planet but not living for it.

[Romans 8:22-25, TPT]

To this day we are aware of the universal agony and groaning of creation, as if it were in the contractions of labor for childbirth. And it's not just creation. We who have already experienced the first-fruits of the Spirit also **inwardly groan as we passionately long to experience our full status as God's sons and daughters—**including our physical bodies being transformed. For this is the hope of our salvation.

[1 John 2:15-17, AMP]

Do not love the world of sin that opposes God and His precepts, nor the things that are in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world—the lust **and** sensual craving of the flesh and the lust **and** longing of the eyes and the boastful pride of life [pretentious confidence in one's resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father but are from the world.

Every heart has a throne, and the highest place is reserved for One, and that is Jesus.

[Matthew 22:37]

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD ***is*** one! You shall love the LORD your God with **all your heart**, with **all your soul**, and with **all your strength**.

You cannot have partial love for Jesus because of the very nature of who God is; there is only one throne that is appropriate for God to reside upon.

Storge’ – familial love – (parent-child, sibling, extended family)

[2 Timothy 3:1-4, TPT]

Characteristics of the Last Days

But you need to be aware that in the final days the culture of society will become extremely fierce. People will be self-centered lovers of themselves and obsessed with money. They will boast of great things as they strut around in their arrogant pride and mock all that is right. **They will be unloving to their own families.** They will be ungrateful and ungodly.

They will become addicted to hateful and malicious slander. Slaves to their desires, they will be ferocious, belligerent haters of what is good and right.

Phileo – the love of close friendship / “brotherly love”

Eros – sexual or passionate love / lust or self-gratifying love

Many people have a self-serving relationship (eros) with God that is transactional. They only head back to Him when there is a big need and leave as soon it is met.

Agape' – unconditional, all-in, unrelenting, the highest love

If your relationship is not based on covenant, it will implode; it will not stand the test of time. The unrelenting, “no turning back” higher love for Jesus is the only option for covenant relationship.

[1 Peter 4:8]

Above all, love (*agape*) each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

If you continue to run back and offer your unconditional love to the world, you show that the agape' love for God is not in you. There's only one way to get to where you need in life: give Him all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, and all your strength!

FOR MONDAY—

1. Take inventory of what you 'love' and how they fall in priority. Pray and ask God for the grace if any reorders need to be made.
2. Renew a covenant relationship with Jesus and offer your verbal surrender to Him.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. How do you define a relationship (DTR), and when is the best time to make it clear? Does this apply to every relationship in the same way?

2. Who do you love, and with what kind of love are you loving?
Why do you think so many live to serve their own appetites?
3. What are some areas in which the world, or you personally, feel a “groan” for something more or true?
4. Comparing John 3.16-17 and 1 John 2.15-17, how does the word “world” (cosmos) differ in these passages? (What the word is connected to makes all the difference.) (i.e. the planet versus the systems and ways of thinking in the world.)
5. What are some things that compete for the throne, or the highest place, in our hearts? (Consider the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.)
6. Would you agree that there are kinds of love that are exclusive? What happens if you try to share that intimacy? How does it degrade, destroy, or disintegrate the quality of relationship?
7. How does the English word for ‘love’ not fully encompass biblical love? How do the four loves (storge, phileo, eros, and agape) in Greek expand upon what we can more specifically feel in different relationship and situations? Would you agree that the philosophy of our culture is largely based on ‘eros?’
8. If we’ve left the love, how do we get it back? What do we do if someone else is on the throne of our heart? Be encouraged by the Apostle Peter’s story or restoration.