

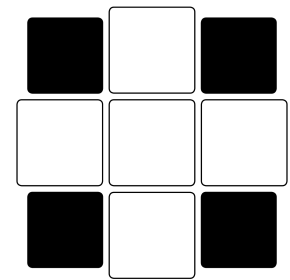
Loving the Church

Scripture: **1 John 2:7–11**

Series: **Doctrine and Devotion: A Study in the First Epistle of John**

Sunday, March 15, 2015

Corroborating Texts: Leviticus 19:18; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 4:19



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been around people who were difficult to love? What was that like? How did you end up responding? Was it good, bad, or otherwise? If you could be in that circumstance over again, what would you do differently?
2. Look at Leviticus 19:18. Who is our neighbor? Look at Luke 10:29–37. Discuss what it means to be a neighbor. [there is a difference between passively living by others and being there for them when you're needed]
3. Why is this a *new* commandment? [most clearly seen in Jesus, most true in him, and most seen in us] How do you see this love in Jesus? How has it been brought to your attention lately? What were the circumstances?
4. How do you see this kind of love at Redeemer? Share a story of you giving love, experiencing love, or witnessing love within your church family.
5. What is hate? [speaking ill of someone, wish someone harm, misfortune, unjust anger, refuse to forgive someone] Hate is more subtle than wrath and quieter than rage. Encourage your group to confess to one another at another time. When are you most likely to stumble in regards to hate?
6. What does love look like? Look at 1 Corinthians 13. What are the hindrances to giving love like this? [our own self-love, others who are difficult to love] We cannot express this love apart from a more important first love. What love is that? [love of God] That love comes through faith.
7. Examine yourself. Do you walk in the light or in the darkness? Do you love your brothers and sisters well or are you always hating them? Do you love people you disagree with or churches that are very different from yours? How can you grow in your love?