

God is Love Summary

John's been talking about love quite a lot in this book, and in this section he really reaches the climax of this topic. He challenges us to love one another, but then here he dives a little deeper into what love really is, where it comes from, how we're able to love and why we ought to love.

What is love? It's knowing Him in a way that spurs us on to live in righteousness by following his commands. It's laying down your own preferences and desires and looking at the interests of others instead of our own.

Where does this kind of love come from? It comes from God himself, because He is love. So if you know love, it's because you've been born of God and know God.

How are we able to love? We're able to love God because He first loved us. Whilst we were enemies of God, He died for us! It's a love so pure that it cannot tolerate sin, but it's also a love so great that He would lay down His life for our sin. That fact itself should compel us to love others. He's already showed us by modelling it for us.

Why we ought to love? Well we ought to love not because we have to, or because we need to. Rather, we are compelled to love because of the cross. We ought to because He showed His love for us by sending His Son to die for our sins. We were freed to love and be loved. As His children, we have His Spirit living within us, and His love is perfected in us when we love. By our own strength we will never be able to love perfectly, but because God loved us perfectly, then we're able to do the same.

1. When was the last time you went out of your way to show love to someone in the gathering? Did it come easily to you or did you find it quite hard?
2. At what level does the truth that "He loves me" resonate? Is it something at the top of your mind regularly or is it not something you thought much about or experienced personally?
3. Is there someone in your life right now whom you find very hard to love? How can you challenge yourself to show love to them this week? (Let's remember and then hold each other accountable next week!)