



Love Does Participant Guide – July 12, 2020

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever done a renovation on your home? What was your favorite part? What was the most challenging?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) When Jesus came, He didn't completely change the old command – "love your neighbor" – He renovated it. How did Jesus renovate this command?
- 2) Before John describes what "love does," he first describes what "love does not." What were some of the things John listed? How are these relevant in your life today?
- 3) Verse 16-18 are probably some of the most challenging verses in this whole letter. What's your answer to this question – "What does love require of me?" How have you been guilty of "speaking the needs" around you instead of meeting them? How can you reorient your life to be more aware of and available to meet the needs of others?

4) When we know Jesus, we know love – because, Jesus is love personified. Andrew outlined three results of knowing Jesus from verses 19-24. What were they? How have you seen these play true in your life?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1) How can you start a daily rhythm of asking the question – what does love require of me?

2) How can your group begin to work together to become aware of and meet the needs of those around you?