

The Navigators Kansas Communities Ministry Men's Retreat

April 26-27, 2019

The Marks of a Committed Disciple

Session 4: Loving Others Like Christ Loves Us

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do we find it difficult to love some people the way Christ loved them? What gets in the way?

2. How is it possible for us to love others the way Christ loves them? Why does our "commitment" to love others out of our "willpower" not make us more loving?

- I. The ability to love others finds its origins in Christ's love for us- 1 John 4:7-11
 - A. The Lord directs us to love one another as a reflection of our relationship with Him- 1 John 4:7
 - B. To fail to love others demonstrates a lack in the intimacy of one's relationship with the Lord- 1 John 4:8
 - C. God's purpose in sending the Son of His love rests in His living out His life through us- 1 John 4:9
 - D. The source of our love for others finds itself in God's love for us which He demonstrated by sending His Son to satisfy His justice on our behalf- 1 John 4:10
 - E. Our love for each other should reflect His love for us- 1 John 4:11
- II. Loving others in the same manner that Christ loves us marks us out as being His disciples- John 13:34-35
 - A. The "new" commandment is not just to love one another but to love one another in the same way Christ loves us- John 13:34
 - 1. The Mosaic Law instructed us to love others as we love ourselves- Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39
 - 2. Christ's new commandment to love others directs us to love others in the same manner that He loves us, which includes sacrificial and unconditional love- 1 John 3:23
 - B. Others will become convinced that we are His committed disciples when they witness us loving one another in this Christ-like manner- John 13:35

- C. The evidence of one's love for God shows itself in loving others-
1 John 4:20-21
- III. Christ never intended for our love for others to be something we manufacture but something we trust Him to produce in us as we depend upon His indwelling Spirit- Galatians 5:22-23
- IV. We demonstrate this kind of love through our acceptance, forgiveness, and encouragement of one another through good times and bad alike- Colossians 3:12-14Val;

Takeaways:

1. The Lord doesn't intend these "Marks of a Committed Disciple" to be a checklist but an outgrowth of abiding in Him and walking by faith- John 15:4-5; Hebrews 11:6
2. He calls us to trust Him and let Him develop these qualities in our lives as we love Him and let Him empower our new hearts to go His way- Galatians 5:16; 22-23
3. "The greatest of these is love"- 1 Corinthians 13:13