



Week 1: Love – II Corinthians 5:14-16

Ice-breaker: What is one thing that drives or motivates you in life?

¹⁴For **the love of Christ controls us**, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

Main Point: The love of God found in Jesus motivates us like nothing else.

1. Christ's love in the atonement (v.14) motivates us
2. Christ's love in our life (v.15) motivates us
3. Christ's love as seen in his perspective (v.16) of others motivates us

Question 1: What aspect of Jesus' love is most meaningful to you - atonement (i.e., Jesus' death for our sins), life (i.e., new God-oriented purpose), or perspective (i.e., an others-oriented purpose/love)? Why?

Love or Obligation

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another: just as I have loved you**, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13

Question 2: Jesus loved in real, tangible ways. What is one of your love languages? How can we experience the love of Christ in tangible ways today?

How Much More (Mat 7:11; Luk 12; Rom 11:12; Heb 9:14; etc.)

When was the last time you felt loved in a specific way?

Question 3: The Body of Christ is to tangibly love one another. What is one time this past week you experienced your love language fulfilled? Now pause, think about that love, and consider "how much more" Christ loves you.

Our Response

1 John 4:19, “We love, because he first loved us!”

Our Call:

One Love (encounter God’s love for us)

Love One (invite others into that love)

The love of Christ compels us like nothing else in our lives. The challenge before us is to experience it, respond to it, and then call others into it.

Question 4: The church is called to be the tangible love of Christ. Out of our encounter with this love, we are called to share the gospel. Therefore, identify one person you know who needs to hear and experience the love of God in Jesus Christ. Share with the group how you know them. What is something you can do this week to show love in a simple way to that person?

Question 5: How does the vision of the church as a “love refilling station” encourage you to share the Gospel with those who do not know Christ? How can this small group assist you in experiencing more of His love?