

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 3, 2013

This Week's Focus: Our spiritual birth has called us to love one another as a testimony to the love and grace of God.

This Week's Text: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **1 John 4:7-11***

*“The key to Christian living is a thirst and hunger for God. And one of the main reasons people do not understand or experience the sovereignty of grace and the way it works through the awakening of sovereign joy is that their hunger and thirst for God is so small.” **John Piper***

Related Texts: Psalm 37:4, 51:5, 58:3; Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 40:1-11; Nehemiah 8:5-6.

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon?
- In 1 Peter 1:22 we have an active imperative in the Greek, a command to love one another earnestly from a pure heart.
 - Discuss the two participial phrases (22a, 23) that modify the command to love.
 - How does “having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth” help us to love one another?
 - How does “living and abiding in the word of God” help us to love one another?
- What is the imperishable seed through which we have been born?
- What is the one and only source for becoming born again? Reference 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 1:23-25.

- In verses 24-25 Peter is quoting a section in Isaiah 40. Read Isaiah 40:1-11 and discuss the contexts of Peter and Isaiah’s audience and the applications Peter is making.
- What are the implications of and the connection between the written word and the preached word?
 - How important is the “revelation” of God?
 - How important is the declaration of the gospel? Reference Romans 10:11-17.
- On the basis of having been born again, transformed by this living and abiding Word of God, we are to put away five things which demonstrate the opposite of Christian love. What are they and how do they destroy relationships? Reference 1 Peter 2:1.
- It is not enough to just NOT do these things; we must replace them with something else. What is the metaphor Peter uses to describe the “something else” and what are the implications? Reference 1 Peter 2:2.
- In what way does what we taste drive our desires and longings?
- People develop a taste for what they are exposed to. What are the two things we are to be exposed to that will keep us “longing for spiritual milk?”

Application:

- How has the gospel changed the way you relate to people?
- What opportunities do we have to love one another as a community?
- What are you actively doing to long for God?
- Are you/we, with intentionality, living out the gospel in word and deed?

Gospel Celebration:

- Review chapter one and celebrate all the nuances of the gospel.

Our Response:

- Love another earnestly and with a pure heart.
- Read the Word of God.
- Rehearse the gospel daily.

Next Week’s Text: 1 Peter 2:4-11