



Life Group Study Notes

"Bethel's Discipleship Path: The Love of Christ"

Pastor Kore Bendix – July 29, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What are some areas in your life that are challenging for you?
- What are some things people do that make you feel like you are loved?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at: www.bethelworld.org

2 Corinthians 5:11-15 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and 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.

"God is a missionary God who makes a missionary people"

-Kore Bendix-

The wonder of Christ's love revealed

Did you know that God is a missionary? Jesus left His home in heaven, and stepped into our world to share the good news about the Kingdom. This is the mystery and wonder of Christ's love revealed. The Apostle Paul was a religious leader who persecuted, imprisoned, and killed followers of Christ. When Jesus revealed Himself to the Apostle Paul, Paul's whole life changed from that moment on. Paul became a new man. Paul's story brings us great hope. It means that the good news is for everyone, even God's biggest opponents. If Paul could be transformed so dramatically, so can we.

The Wonder of Christ's love declared

After Paul encountered Jesus he was transformed into a new man. He was blinded and then sent to the very people he had been persecuting to be healed. Afterwards he left and no one heard from him for three years. When Paul returned He began to declare the gospel of Jesus Christ, going on several missionary journeys, and planting churches wherever he went. We have the opportunity to play a part in God's mission. Like Paul we have a testimony of how God has impacted our lives. We only need to declare the love that God has shown us.

The Wonder of Christ's love demonstrated

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **(Romans 5:8)**

Sin ultimately leads to death. Like all of us Paul had been trapped by the lie of sin and death. Yet Christ's love encountered Paul and delivered him from the power of sin and death. When Jesus encounters us He delivers us from the bondage of sin, and then invites us into a relationship with Him. Jesus then gives us His Holy Spirit so that we can be empowered to be a witness of His love on earth. Eventually the Apostle Paul would be martyred for his faith just like Jesus. In all this time Paul never lost sight of Christ's love and the promise of the Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. 2 Corinthians 5 reminds us what keeps us going in this walk and on this mission. "The love of Christ compels us to urge men, be reconciled to God." The more we encounter the love of Christ it compels us to be a part of God's mission. Jesus didn't come to pay us back for our sins, but to bring us back into a right relationship with God.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- In what ways has Christ's love impacted your life?
- In what ways can you impact the lives of people around you with the love of Christ?
- What is your Two-Minute Miracle? (i.e. Where were you before Christ? How did Jesus rescue you? How is the grace of God continuing to change you?)

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray that God would make us a missionary people. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers.
- Ask God how we can be a part of God's mission. What missionary should I partner with, what person should I share the gospel with, how should I pray for missions?