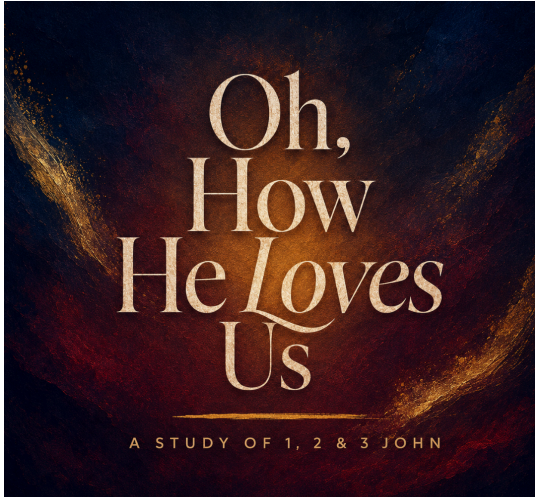




How He Loves Us

One word defines the message of 1, 2, & 3 John: Love. Specifically, God's sacrificial and perfect agape Love. This love is so perfect and so powerful, it does not lead us the way it finds us. It transforms us. It marks us. In this small group series, we will see how God's agape love for his people transforms us and every part of our lives.

WEEK TWO

Because God loves me, I obey

Message Passage: 1 John 2:3-6, 1 John 3:22-24, 1 John 5:2-3, 1 John 4:9-10, 1 John 4:19, & 1 John 3:1-9

Small Group Passage: 1 John 5:1-5 & 1 John 2:1-6

TEACHING AND VIDEO NOTES

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. "Obedience is a response to God's love, not a way to receive God's love. Why do you think that distinction is so easy to understand with our minds but so difficult to live out in practice?
2. Have you ever found yourself trying to earn God's approval through your obedience? What did that look like?
3. How can we take the Apostle John's teaching concerning showing our love for God through obedience seriously without falling into the trap of legalism and perfectionism?

Read: 1 John 5:1-5

4. Vs 1. Many throughout church history have misunderstood John's teaching in this chapter, teaching that salvation is somehow earned, preceded, or validated by obedience to God. In verse one, John clarifies that salvation comes from believing in Christ. Why is it so important that we get this fundamental doctrinal truth right?
5. Vs 2-3. John describes obedience to God as a blessing. That is not the first word we typically associate with "obey." Yet obeying God is just that: a blessing rather than a burden. What can we do to help ourselves see obedience to God this way?

Read: 1 John 2:1-6

6. Vs 1-3. John wrote extensively about obedience as a response to God's love, so that the church would not sin. But that did not mean that faithful believers would never stumble. How do these passages teach us how to respond to our sinful mistakes based on God's agape love?
7. Vs 5. The word "perfected" in verse five means "brought to maturity" in the original language. When we fully understand God's love for us and respond to it with our

actions, we are brought to maturity. In what ways have you matured in your faith as you better understand Christ's love and walk with Him?

PRAYER TIME

DISMISS