

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 29 April 2018**

**Speaker:** Scott Taylor

**Title:** Love

In this time, as we go on a confident adventure in God and look to what it means to be Followers of Jesus, God would have us no again about love. A bit like Paul when he writes to the Corinthians about spiritual gifts, the big thing they are going for as a congregation. In the midst of that conversation in 1 Cor 12 and 14, he pauses in 13 to say, but don't forget love. I wonder what Paul would have written to us? But the love described in verses 4-7 sounds like Jesus and seems impossible, but it has to be possible, just not in perfection, we will mess up but we will love more like him as time goes on.

**So we see three things from the 1 John passage:**

Firstly - His nature. John says twice that God is love, not loving, but love. He is the definition of love. It's who he is. He has always been love, as Father Son and Holy Spirit. His justice, wrath, jealousy for relationship with us, his singing delighting dancing his joy are all in a response to him being love.

Secondly - he has not hidden that love, he has displayed his love, throughout the Bible we see his love, whether it's making skins for Adam and Eve, providing for a grumbling Israel in the desert, bringing back a remnant to Jerusalem, he has displayed his love. Then at the cross of Jesus it is displayed once and for all. God loves you! He sent his Son to pay the price for you to win forgiveness for you to make peace for you, why, because of his love displayed.

Lastly - he chooses to display his love through us. We are to be those who love one another. %9 references are given in the NT to how we should one another each other, all displaying our love for each other, and the nature that he has placed in us. God would have us grasp this reality again because as a church we are running hard and going for something huge. A building, change of use, raising funds, seed funds, different ministries different preferences for music, different opinions around the Holy Spirit, different nations, backgrounds but one church.

When we love we can look differently at conflict, Sunday meetings, lifegroups, serving, giving – we can do those things because we have to or do them because we get to for each other as a reflection of God's love, displayed, through us.

**Suggested questions:**

- 1) What did you hear a fresh on Sunday that stuck with you?
- 2) What are you really enjoying about church life right now?
- 3) In light of Sunday's message what changes are you aware you need to make? (forgiveness, conflict, serving, giving, membership, Sundays,)
- 4) Pray that you would each be people display the fact that God is love!