

Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

IN THE CHURCH

John 13:34-35, Acts 2:42-47
Stuart Jones - May 15, 2016



INTRODUCTION

Every organization, team or group of people almost always has one thing for which they are ultimately recognized. The Golden State Warriors are known for unbelievable three point shooting. Apple is known for its innovative principles yet simplicity in design and use. Even ISIS is recognized for its adherence to its radical beliefs and goals.

Jesus said, Christians should ultimately be known by one thing, too. LOVE. He said in John 13:35, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." The early Christians did life together. They shared with, cared for and respected each other. Those identifying traits will be recognized and attractive to others even today.

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Stuart mentioned we have t-shirts, sweatshirts, cups, mugs, key chains, socks or hats that show through pictures and symbols the things that matter most to us. What are those things for you and why do they matter to you?
2. There are passionate fans of collegiate teams, pro teams, NASCAR teams, etc., all around our country. What is the difference between being a fan of something and actually participating in something?

EVALUATE IT

1. Have someone read John 13:34-35. Who does Jesus tell us to love? Who is a "one another?" Why love other believers and not everyone or the unlovely or the less fortunate or your enemies?
2. Stuart said, "We are to share in respect at home." What does a healthy biblical respect between a parent and child look like? How is that achieved?
3. Have someone read Acts 2:42-47. In John 13 Jesus gave a new commandment. How seriously did the early church take this commandment? Explain.
4. What would it look like if the modern church took this new commandment as seriously as the early church did?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Answer the question Stuart asked, "If you are a Christian, are you a cross wearing impressionist or are you a follower of Jesus?" Why?
2. Where does the symbol of love for other believers need to shine a little brighter in the activity of your life? What tangible steps can you take to make that happen?

ILLUSTRATION

IF I belittle those whom I am called to serve, talk of their weak points in contrast perhaps with what I think of as my strong points; if I adopt a superior attitude, forgetting "Who made thee to differ? and what hast thou that thou has not received?" then I know nothing of Calvary love.

IF I take offense easily, if I am content to continue in a cool unfriendliness, though friendship be possible, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

IF I feel bitterly towards those who condemn me, as it seems to me, unjustly, forgetting that if they knew me as I know myself they would condemn me much more, then I know nothing of Calvary love. - Amy Carmichael, *IF*



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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