



Purpose 3

Purpose of the Elders Discipleship Group: To Train and Equip Discipleship Group leaders to lead more effectively.

Key Theme: Purpose.

Key Truth: Perfected in Love Empowers Us to Love as Jesus Loves.

Key Scripture: *1 John 2:5-6 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*

Read: Being kept in His Word is exactly the same as being kept in His name, which is what we looked at last week in relation to being made spiritually one with God and one another. As we learn to keep His Word the outcome of this is that God's love is truly perfected within us. If God's love is not being perfected in us, then we are not keeping His Word. It really is that simple. It doesn't matter what we like to say or think, if there is no love being produced we are only intellectualising His words.

It's by this true reality of love being present that the bible says we know we are in Him. If we are in Him then we abide in Him and we are fully able to walk in the manner in which He walked. The manner of love is the first expression of His divine nature of being and from this posture of love, Jesus demonstrated all the 16 attributes that describes love. We too are called to demonstrate these 16 attributes of love and so by them prove to be His disciples.

The maturing bride of Christ, the church who is one with God the Father, Son, Spirit and one another, are fully able and capable of loving as Jesus loves. This is what makes her the mature bride. An immature people can not live this out. It is only a mature people of the Spirit that find themselves being able to do this. This is the church that a lost world look at and know Christ was sent for them. This is the church who are one with the Father.

Loving as the Father and Son love, is a key purpose for His bride, God's children, His disciples. Jesus Himself said, "All men will know you are My disciples if you have love for one another." A disciple of Christ is an active participant of all that is Christ, and in Christ, while a casual consumer is a passive recipient, who only follows Christ for what they can get from Christ or what Christ can do for them.

Questions:

1. Describe in your own words what keeping His Word means?
2. What does abiding in Christ look like and how does one know if they are truly abiding in Christ the Way Christ deems fit?
3. Not being able to love like Christ doesn't mean one is not justified by His blood, so what does it mean?
4. What is the difference between being a Disciple of Jesus and a casual consumer of Jesus?
5. How does a Disciple of Jesus live compared to a casual consumer?

Action: What is one thing you may need to put in place from going through this resource?