

Discussion Questions

Love Incorruptible—Ephesians 6:21-24

(Share about your earliest memory of feeling loved.)

What is love? Do you think it's a feeling, a commandment, a commitment, a covenant, an action? What do you think love is?

- Do you think it's possible to muster up love, to make it happen in you or others? Explain.
- Read 1 John 4:7-8.
- Does this scripture say, "Beloved *make* yourselves love" or "Beloved *work* at love?" According to this scripture, how does love happen?

In Scripture, God makes a covenant with His children (Israel), and with His Bride (Jerusalem). And the terms of the covenant are LOVE, or I should say, a description of Love called the Law. Through Joshua, God says, "Choose this day whom you will serve," and Joshua (which is the Hebrew form of the word Jesus) says, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." And then He says, "But you all can't choose to serve the Lord." Isn't that strange?—P.H.

- Why do you think God asks us to do things He knows we are incapable of doing in our own strength?

1 John 4:8 says, "God is love."

- How is that different than saying God is *loving*?
- When have you felt most loved by God?
- Since God *is* love, do you think it is possible for Him to have any characteristics or attributes that contradict the reality that He *is* love?
- Have you ever felt like God doesn't love you, that He is not pure love? If so, what contributed to those thoughts? Where did they come from?

We try to love but are often unsuccessful because we are doing it out of our old man (in our flesh and with our own works—with that which is corruptible) but Love—God is incorruptible. Read this passage from 1 Corinthians 15 :

For this corruption, must put on the incorruptible (*apharsia*), and this mortal body must put on immortality. When (the corruptible) puts on (the incorruptible), and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death (Hades) where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, (believing you could create love) and the power of sin is the law (the description of Love). But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (Who is Love). Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain (Your love is incorruptible).

- What does this passage reveal to us about how we are empowered to love and the outworking of that love?
- How can you "*let*" yourself love?
- Reflect on these words: Love is not a tool to get things done.

All creation is an instrument to get Love done.

- Have you tried to use Love to get what you want, to get things on your agenda done? If so, confess them to your Heavenly Father—who is Love.
- Now, if you'd like, take some time and ask God how you might be an instrument of His love, even this week!