

Small Group Study Guide- More Than Words Week 2

Extra Notes:

Love is the medicine of all moral evil. By it the world is to be cured of sin.

–Henry Ward Beecher

1) Love People: If we do not love we do not know God. (1 John 4:7-8)

- Love is the pinnacle of Christian faith, yet also the most pragmatic quality. How does the Apostle John explain the pragmatism of love within the Christian faith?
- What are pragmatic expressions of love? What are profound expressions of love? How do we differentiate between the two of them? Does God? (*See John 15:12-14*)
- What does it look like to be a partaker of God's divine nature? How does love fit into this process? (*See 2 Peter 1:3-7*)

2) Love People: Our love is meant to be active not reactive. (1John 4:9-12)

- How can one best understand love? How would you define the difference between an intellectual understanding of love and an experiential understanding of love? Why are both needed for one to have a holistic understanding of love? (*See Matthew 22:37-40*)
- What is easier: To initiate love or respond to it? Why? Do you think some of us are wired differently? If so why? And give examples. (*See 1 John 4:11*) What are tangible ways we can love one another? Does "loving one another," mean learning to receive and reciprocate love?
- Why is it important to perfect love within the body of Christ? Why do you think John speaks of the church loving each other so much? How would you define spiritual health in a church? How do we balance loving people and reaching the lost? (*See Acts 2:42-47*)