

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 1, 2017

This Week's Focus: Jesus' obedience to the Father's will – to sacrificially endure the punishment for our sins on the cross – effectively purchased our salvation from sin and empowers us to obey his command to love one another.

This Week's Text: John 15:12-17

Abiding in Christ means allowing His Word to fill our minds, direct our wills, and transform our affections.

Sinclair Ferguson

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- According to verse 12, how does Jesus command his disciples (and us today) to love one another? How has Jesus loved us and so empowered us to love one another? Discuss how obedience to Jesus' commands doesn't make disciples, but rather obedience is the mark of genuine disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Discuss the difference between gospel-centered love and worldly love. Do you preach the gospel to yourself each day to remind yourself of God's love for you and to motivate you to love others? Discuss the following ways we can exhibit gospel-centered love:
 - Upward – Praise God for his kindness and love to you in Jesus Christ.
 - Inward – Selflessly loving your family and your innermost relationships.
 - Outward – Intentionally loving your neighbors and those in your school, workplace, and community.
- In verses 14-15, how does Jesus describe the relationship he has with those who abide in his love? Explain how believers are both friends and slaves of Christ. Reference 1 Corinthians 6:19 and Romans 6:20-23. Do you experience the intimacy of knowing the living Christ as your friend and loving Savior and Lord? As his friends, what has Jesus shared with us about himself and his plans and purposes?
- What incredible statement does Jesus make in verse 16? Who is ultimately responsible for the salvation of human souls? Why is it impossible for anyone to choose to follow Christ?
- What is the fruit that Jesus states will inevitably be produced from abiding in him? What are some ways we can declare and demonstrate the gospel in our communities and spheres of influence?