



Small Group Guide: Perseverance in Faith (1 John 2:18-3:15)

Key Takeaways:

1. Perseverance is indicative of those who are following Christ.
2. God's love for us is based on who He is, not what we deserve.
3. The incarnation demonstrates God's great love for humanity.
4. Believers should anticipate ultimate union with Christ.
5. Those who persevere make every effort to live righteously and love radically.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does John's emphasis on perseverance challenge or encourage you in your faith journey?
2. The sermon states, "God's great love is indicative of who he is, not of what we deserve." How does this truth impact your view of God and yourself?
3. Reflect on the incarnation. How does Jesus becoming human demonstrate God's love for us?
4. How do you balance the tension between recognizing our ongoing struggle with sin and John's statement that believers cannot "continue sinning intentionally"?
5. The pastor mentions being "aggressive" in defeating sin. What are some practical ways you can be more intentional about pursuing righteousness in your life?
6. How does the anticipation of our ultimate union with Christ motivate you in your daily walk with God?
7. Discuss the challenge to "love radically." What does this look like in your relationships, especially with difficult people?

Practical Applications:

1. Reflection Exercise: Spend time this week meditating on 1 John 3:1. Journal about how God's love for you as His child impacts your daily life.
2. Sin Inventory: Prayerfully consider areas where you might be "walking beside the line" of sin. What steps can you take to distance yourself from these temptations?
3. Love in Action: Choose one person who is difficult to love and intentionally show them Christ-like love this week through a specific action.
4. Accountability: Partner with someone in the group to encourage each other in pursuing righteousness and resisting sin.
5. Gratitude Practice: Each day this week, write down one way you've experienced God's love, focusing on His character rather than your actions.
6. Scripture Memorization: Commit to memorizing 1 John 3:1-3 over the next week to reinforce the sermon's key messages.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for your great love that makes us your children. Help us to persevere in faith, pursuing righteousness and loving others radically. May we be captivated by your love and motivated by our future union with you. Give us the strength to turn from sin and the courage to respond to your call on our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.