



Chapter Six: When You're in Love

INTRODUCTION

Love changes everything. It does more than make us feel happy in the midst of difficult situations. Love actually changes our approach to God. God's love for us means that we are called into a close relationship with our Creator. Our love for God means that following Him is not a tedious duty but a joyful privilege. We have a strong tendency to want to be good enough for God. Even though we know God loves us unconditionally and accepts us solely by grace, it's easy for us to slip back into merit-based relationship with God. But the gospel is all about love. God's love is not dependent on our achievements or greatness; God's love is most clearly seen in the fact that He died for us *while we were sinners* (Romans 5:8).

Watch Chapter Six Video

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What if God loves you so much that He doesn't want to see you live with frustration, doesn't want you to be shackled with guilt or fear, and doesn't want you driven to try harder? How does it affect you to think of Him like that?

Read Galatians 5:13-14

2. Think about Paul's words in Galatians 5:13-14. How do love and freedom keep us away from sin?
3. Consider the difference between serving God out of love versus obligation. How does obedience to God change as our love for God grows?
4. Does the Christian life feel free to you? Or do you feel bound to obey a system of moral commands? Be descriptive.
5. Which is more difficult for you, relating to God with intimacy or approaching Him with reverence? Why do you think this is more difficult for you?
6. What baggage do you carry around with you? How do you think this affects your relationship with God?
7. Does your relationship with God resemble an "in love" relationship? How so, or how not?
8. As you look at the way you interact with the people around you (both inside and outside the church), would you say those interactions are best characterized by love? Why do you say that?

ON YOUR OWN

It's time to stop talking about loving God and start spending time directly with Him. Use everything you've thought through in this session as you approach God. Be honest with Him about your lack of love for Him. Tell Him about your struggles and ask Him to produce more love in your heart. (You may find the prayer on the last page of Chapter 6 to be helpful in approaching God with complete honesty.)

Read Chapter 7 before the next Session

