

LOOP Leader Study Guide
WE LOVE YOU - WEEK 2
Pastor Tim Chambers

Key idea: The Church is Quintessential.

Key scriptures: Matthew 22:34-40. 1 John 4:7-8; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Ephesians 3:14-21; Ephesians 5:1-2



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Discussion Questions:

1. Take a few minutes to allow those who attended the Parking Lot Service on Sunday to share their impressions of the service. How meaningful was it to have the opportunity for a live chance to worship instead of just a virtual opportunity?
2. This was Week 7 of the We Love You series in which Pastor Tim is teaching us about the great commandment that we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to also love our neighbor with the same completeness. (You can read Matthew 22:34-40 here if you feel it necessary) Remember, Pastor Tim said, it's not love God or your neighbor -- it's both. And when we love God, the natural response is to love our neighbor.
3. Fill in the blank. God is _____. (love) And is because God is Love that He can and does command us to love both vertically toward Him and horizontally toward our neighbor. **Read 1 John 4:7-8.** Share one way we can show our neighbor that God's love is within us.
4. During the past two months we have heard the words essential and non-essential to describe people and jobs. And being put in the non-essential category can be upsetting because the Church has been labeled non-essential by our leaders. Pastor Tim said that not only is the Church essential, it's **QUINTESSENTIAL**. The definition of quintessential is **someone or something that is the perfect example of something**. What is God the perfect example of? (love plus a whole lot of other stuff) In the word quintessential, *quint* means 5 and in the Bible, 5 represents God's favor and grace which is showered on us through Jesus.
5. As Christians we are full of God's grace; we are carriers of the grace of Christ. But do we manifest the symptoms of being infected with His love? Or does the world see us as asymptomatic? Answer this question: What are the symptoms the world should observe in us when we are full of the love and grace of Jesus?
6. 1 Corinthians 13 is the love chapter often read at weddings. In that passage, the Apostle Paul explains what love is and what love isn't and how all important it is to show love. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3** and explain why these laudable characteristics listed are really nothing if not backed by love. (if not coupled with love, these are all just for show, hollow, and empty)

7. Let's read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** as Paul teaches the characteristics of love. Pastor Tim gave us a list of ways we can apply love. Discuss them and try to match them up with the appropriate love category from the scripture passage.
- Love is the way we respond to difficult people (patient & kind).
 - Love is how we view our success and the success of others (does not boast and is not envious).
 - Love is our posture towards people who are wrong or whom we deem inferior (not arrogant or rude).
 - Love is an attitude toward disagreement, inconvenience, and past hurts (does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable, doesn't keep a list of wrongs, or is not resentful).
 - Love is a commitment to deal with others in a Christlike manner, not to use them unrighteously out of selfishness, but determines to respond according to the truth of Scripture (it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth).
 - Love will carry any burden, reach across any divide, face any problem, take any risk for the good of its object (Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things).
8. The love of God comes from the indwelling of power of the risen Christ. Ephesians 3:14-21 is a spirit filled prayer for us. Read the passage. Pastor Tim said that God's love was not cautiously given but extravagantly poured out for us. What are some ways we can be more extravagant with our love toward our neighbors?
9. True love manifests itself in the hardest of times and before the worst of people -- the kind of people who demand patience and endurance and who provoke resentment, envy, and irritability. **Read Ephesians 5:1-2.** How has this series helped you to show more love toward you neighbors? How can you do even more?