

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

May 11, 2008

Focus: Love is the essence of a Christ follower and nothing else!

I John - Lesson #11 Love Wins

Introduction: I get accused all the time of making things too complicated so tonight I thought it would be fun to try and simplify this journey we are on as much as we possible can.

- In your own words, share with us the essence of Christianity in one sentence.
- Compare and contrast the statements that have just been shared.
- Evaluate whether or not this is the life we are living.

Text: 1 John 3:11-24... Tonight John gets to the heart of his teaching. He has said it before and he is going to say it again. Love it what matters. You can talk all you want to about a lot of different things but love is the essence of a Christ follower. It doesn't matter what you say...it matters how you love! Words are worthless...love wins!

- Explain why love is such a big deal... "this is the message you heard from beginning." Why does he have to speak about it so much!
- Assess the sin of Cain and compare it to ours. (selfishness and pride)
- Why would the world hate someone who loves?
- Assess what the church is supposed to look like according to John.

Application:

- What other things do we try to make Christianity about?
- Deal with the selfishness of people...what is that about?
- How have we loved with just "words and tongue" and not actions?
- How can we get back to the essence of Christ...individually, in our group, and in our church?