

three **BEAUTIFUL** words

Week 1: How To See God

Week 2: How To Fight Fear

APPETIZER: Wild Wild Country

OSHO (Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh)

- **Peace** = harmony with group members, to be protected by any means necessary
- **Love** = feelings of good and delight toward others

JESUS

- **Peace** = the non-violent pursuit of reconciliation in all relationships
- **Love** (AGAPE) = an unconditional energy of honour between persons; the will to work for the wellbeing of all

DINE IN: The Exorcism of Fear

1 John 4:13-21

LIVING IN LOVE =

Celebrating being loved by God

+

Committing to love like God

- Our commitment to love others only = religious PBA
- Our celebration of being loved only = self-indulgent spirituality
- Together = rooted, maturing, contributing spirituality

“This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”
~ God (Matthew 17:5 / Mark 9:7)

... Then the world will know that you sent me and have
loved them even as you have loved me.
~ Jesus (John 17:20-23)

... in order that the love you have for me may be in them...
~ Jesus (John 17:26)

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes
him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but
has crossed over from death to life.
~ Jesus (John 5:24)

TAKE OUT: Manifesting Love In Our Community

Why the emphasis on loving within the Christ-following community?

- a. We all worship the same GOD.
- b. We all value the same JESUS.
- c. We all experience the same SPIRIT.

This week I will participate in the community of peace and love by...

1. Signing up for home church
2. Signing up to serve
3. Signing up to give
4. Approaching new people with an eagerness to love them well.
5. Reconnecting with estranged friends with an eagerness to love them well
6. Apologizing quickly
7. Forgiving generously
8. Other (write down your specifics of who and how and when)

NEXT WEEK: Good Friday & Easter Sunday!

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Review Sunday's message, including our central text. Talk about something that stood out to you as an encouragement, challenge, disagreement, or question.
2. Some people insist God is love *plus* holiness, righteousness, wrath, etc. How would you respond to this attempt to "balance" God's love? (For more on this, see bruxy.com/other/gods-gutsy-love/.)

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read all of **1 John 4:7-21**.
 - a. What verse, phrase, or idea stands out to you? Why?
 - b. The context for this passage is the urgent need to identify false teachers (see the earlier verses in this chapter). John gives three tests: i) Commitment to Jesus (as coming in the flesh and being the Son of God). ii) Commitment to the Apostles' teaching about Jesus. Then in verse 8, iii) John says the third way to identify false teachers is love, or lack of it – Do they manifest a deep unconditional love for the body of Christ? How can we observe "Christian" leaders well enough to apply this test? Is it even possible?
 - c. Work through the whole passage and try to identify every instance of both of the elements of "living in love" = celebrating how much God loves us + committing to loving others well. See how they work together and are both a part of being "like Jesus" in this world.
 - d. So, which are you stronger/weaker at – celebrating God's love for you or committing to loving others well?
 - e. How is this Good News about no fear of judgement (also see Jesus' words in John 5:24) revolutionary and irreligious?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. How did you respond to the "Take Out" in the sermon notes? How are you doing at following through?
5. If you have time, review 3-c above and pray for one another.