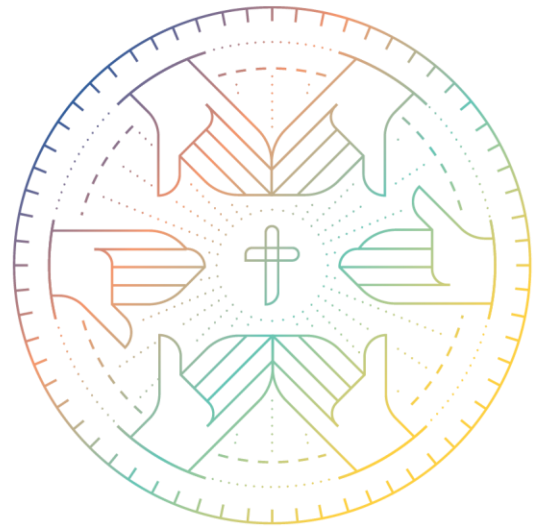


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we are continuing our series *Love: Over-used & Under-lived*. In our seventh week, we will examine how love does not rejoice at wrongdoing but instead rejoices with the truth. In our post-truth society, our culture often celebrates things that counter the truth. Paul's message to the Corinthian church is radical for us today as we grapple with understanding and living out truth of the gospel in our lives

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Have you ever had a time when you were excited and celebrated the loss or misfortune of someone or something else? Examples could include the airing of a celebrity's dirty laundry, the loss of a rival Sports team, or the public scandal of a politician.

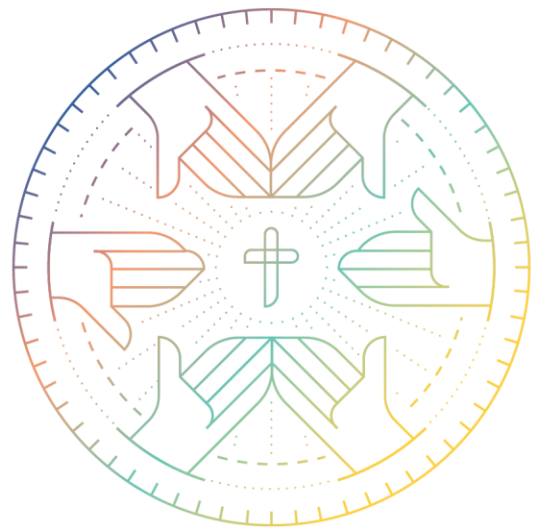
INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:1-6

Paul continues his instruction to the Corinthian church by examining how love does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. In our post-truth society, our culture often celebrates things that counter the truth. Paul's message to the Corinthian church is radical for us today as we grapple with understanding and living out truth of the gospel in our lives.

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INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Isaiah 5:20 and Proverbs 17:15. How do you see wrongdoing and evil celebrated in our culture today?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. "A world in rebellion against God will have a skewed perspective and embrace a topsy-turvy morality. There are many people today who still call evil "good" and good "evil," as they promote behaviors that the Bible specifically calls sinful. A world in rebellion against God will have a skewed perspective and embrace a topsy-turvy morality. There are many people today who still call evil "good" and good "evil," as they promote behaviors that the Bible specifically calls sinful." (gotquestions.org) Authentic Love is radical in how it seeks the best in others and does not find joy in the suffering and loss of others.]

2. Read 1 Peter 4:3-4, Proverbs 17:9, and Romans 12:9-10. In these passages, we see that love does not:
 - Hope others will sin
 - Gossip about sin
 - Join in sin.

What sticks out to you from these three aspects, and how do we see these show up in our lives?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Anything that covers up sin or seeks to justify wrongdoing is the polar opposite of godly love. Love does not sweep sin under the rug. Love does not try to find ways to get away with bad behavior, and it does not put up with injustice. Instead, it treasures truth, celebrates good behavior, and promotes virtue. True love has nothing to hide. (gotquestions.org) It is important for us to look at our own lives and pinpoint areas where we may not love those around us.]

3. Read Psalm 1:1-2, Psalm 31:19, and Romans 12:15-16. On the other side of the coin, we see that love does three things:
 - Spends time seeking and practicing the truth
 - Talks about God and His goodness
 - Celebrates the success of others

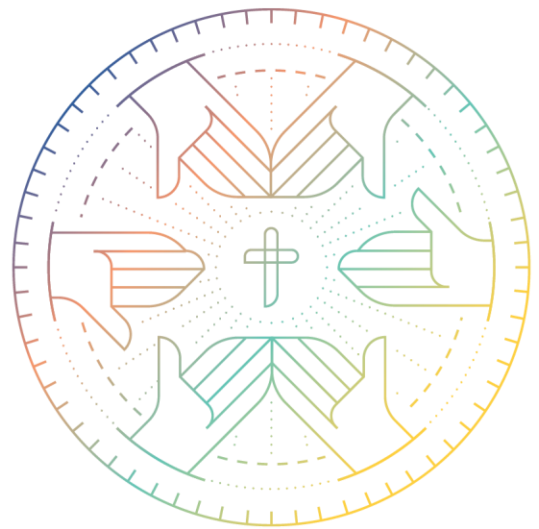
What sticks out to you from these three, and how do we see these show up in our lives?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. The truth, no matter how difficult it may be, is always the best path through any situation. It is the way of and to Christ, who is the Truth (John 14:6). Wanting what is true to be understood and accepted by others is one way we express love. (Bibleref.com) A.W. Tozer speaks of God's goodness in this way. "The goodness of God is infinitely more wonderful than we will ever be able to contend."]

Group Life.

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APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. **Read Romans 12:9, Psalms 34:14, and 1 Thessalonians 5:15. What could “not rejoicing” in wrongdoing practically look like in your life?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. D.A. Carson states that love “does not enjoy endless discussions about what is wrong with the churches and institutions we serve, and takes on such subjects when competing demands of righteousness require it. If there is any report of something right or truthful going on, love will quickly rejoice over it, ... love will join with others in rejoicing over the truth. Love does not seek to make itself distinctive by tracking down and pointing out what is wrong; it gladly sinks its own identity to rejoice with others at what is right.]

2. **Read 1 John 3:18-19 and John 8:31-32. How would your life change if you actively rejoiced in the truth?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Augustine said, “True happiness is to rejoice in the truth, for to rejoice in the truth is to rejoice in You, O God, who are the truth... Those who think that there is another kind of happiness look for joy elsewhere, but theirs is not true joy.” Examples of this could include speaking the truth to a friend in love by having a difficult conversation, celebrating with someone when they make the next step in their relationship with Christ, or choosing to do the right thing.]

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear heavenly Father,

May we love one another selflessly, reflecting how You love us daily. Please help us not to rejoice in the ways our world often rejoices at the wrongdoing of others, but instead, may we rejoice in the truth. Thank you for the Bible and how we can know the truth and let it set us free. May we rest in the truth of your word and let it transform our lives to reflect you better. In Your holy and excellent name, we pray, amen.