

### III. Imitate God's love

#### 1. Make it God-centered

Which means that we will \_\_\_\_\_ anything that opposes God!

#### 2. Make it purposeful

"We should love God for God's sake and we should love our neighbors for God's sake." Leeman

#### **A Definition of Love**

An affection for another that is driven to see the good of the Holy take shape in him.

**In the context of spiritual gifts, this means we will aim our God-given contribution to the body toward the goal of seeing our fellow believers conformed to Christ!**

What about

# Spiritual Gifts?

Week Three

## The Offense of Love

*"Biblical love is both attractive and offensive; it embraces and shuns; it covers and uncovers; it accepts and intrudes; it is not what we think!"*

#### Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved Children; and walk in love just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us..."

#### Ephesians 4:15

"but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ..."

#### Ephesians 5:11

"Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them...."

#### 1 Corinthians 5:4-5

"In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled...deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

## I. The nature of God's love

### 1. Who is the focal point of God's love?

"He gave Himself up for us"

Why?

1 Peter 2:9-12

God's love is \_\_\_\_-centered, not \_\_\_\_-centered.

### 2. Is love unconditional? Does it "give everything?"

**Psalm 11:5-6**

"God's God-centered love bears a posture that opposes everything that opposes God, just as you and I will oppose anyone who opposes the human objects of our love such as a friend or spouse."

Jonathan Leeman

**1 Peter 1:15-16**

"but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior for it is written, 'You shall be holy for I am holy.'"

God's love is **not** conditioned on \_\_\_\_\_, but it **is** conditioned on holiness; not that holiness is \_\_\_\_\_ of us, but that holiness is \_\_\_\_\_ in us.

**Love and judgment, grace and truth, acceptance and holiness are not mutually exclusive concepts but are wrapped up in each other.**

## II. God's love is purposeful

### 1. It has a definite aim

**Hebrews 2:10-11**

**Romans 8:28**

What is this "good" aimed at?

### 2. It takes a definite shape

**Hebrews 12:4-10**

How does God move us toward the goal?  
Exposure! Pressure! Confrontation! Intrusion!

What is the goal of discipline? (cf. v 10)