



WEEK 4 – AUTHENTIC LOVE, AUTHENTIC GIVING

Read Matthew 22:15-22, 34-40

Opening Prayer:

God, we are pulled in many directions. As we center ourselves in this time of holy study and conversation, we pray for renewed focus and clarity about *who* we are and *whose* we are. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Quote: *"I think young people are saying, 'We got to do church differently.' Darling, never fear. The Holy Spirit is going to make sure we do church different."*

- Pamela Lightsey

Starter Question:

Do you have a memory of when you were having a hard time and felt loved/received help from others?

Wrestling With the Word:

1. Genesis 1:27 says we are created in the image of God. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
2. What does it look like to love our God with all our heart, soul and mind? What does it look like to "give to God what is God's"?
3. In what ways do we love/care for ourselves? What might it look like to extend the same love and care to our neighbors?

Next Steps:

1. Our other commitments (e.g. to state/country) are subordinated to our all-encompassing commitment to God and neighbor. How do we order our commitments? How do we discern what takes priority?
2. How do we determine what belongs to who?
3. How does our culture do harm to the image of God in people? How does this passage call us to a different way?
4. How would our church/the world be different if every follower of Jesus lived out these two commandments?
5. How does our generosity/giving reflect these two commandments? How does our giving show what we believe is God's?

Closing Prayer:

God whose image we bear, thank you for your pardoning love and unending generosity. Help us to live wisely, fulfilling our earthly responsibilities while keeping our hearts fully devoted to you. May we always love you with all our heart, soul, and mind and love our neighbors as ourselves. Let these commandments guide us as we leave this space, living as reflections of your love. In Jesus' name, amen.



Week 1: Who Are You?

Sunday – Romans 12:1-2
Monday – Ephesians 2:10
Tuesday – Psalm 139:13-14
Wednesday – 2 Corinthians 5:17
Thursday – Jeremiah 1:5
Friday – Romans 6:9-14
Saturday – Jeremiah 29:11

Week 2: Who Are You Wearing Today?

Sunday – Colossians 3:12-17
Monday – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
Tuesday – Romans 13:14
Wednesday – Ephesians 6:10-18
Thursday – Galatians 3:26-27
Friday – Galatians 5:22-26
Saturday – Revelation 19:6-9

Week 3: Love in Action

Sunday – 1 John 3:16-18
Monday – James 2:14-18
Tuesday – John 13:34-35
Wednesday – James 1:23-25
Thursday – 2 Timothy 1:7
Friday – 1 Thessalonians 3:12
Saturday – Luke 7:36-50

Week 4: Authentic Loving, Authentic Giving

Sunday – Matthew 22:15-22, 34-40
Monday – Luke 21:1-4
Tuesday – Luke 16:19-31
Wednesday – Matthew 13:31-32
Thursday – Matthew 13:44-46
Friday – Isaiah 58:6-12
Saturday – Psalm 40:6-8