



## **Week of February 6-12**

### **True Love**

1 John 4:7-11

Love one another – sounds simple, doesn't it? After all, we're loving one another every Sunday as we greet people during the fellowship chorus. Every Wednesday night as we enjoy fellowship around the table, we're loving each other. When a friend is sick or hurting, we love that person by praying and making contact with them. We love one another – but how far does that love go?

Each week, people are visiting churches all around our community only to leave as they came - strangers. Fellowship meals are shared by the closest of friends, while others sit at tables by themselves. Opportunities to share God's love go by the wayside as we plow through our daily routine. God continues to open doors, providing opportunities to share His love with a world so desperately in need of that love. And too often we choose not to use these opportunities to express Christ's love to the world. Why? Because it's uncomfortable – because it stretches our limitations and raises our level of stress. We want to be loving – as long as we stay in our comfort zone.

1 John 4 reminds us that love – true love – is not based on our feelings or emotions, but rather our choices. God reveals to us the meaning of true love – His love – as He acted on our behalf. Because He loved us, He chose to send His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins – to give His life once and for all so that we may have life. A choice without heartache or pain? Not hardly! Words cannot adequately express the level of pain God experienced to allow His one and only Son to die for us, especially when He had the power to rescue Him. This is love! It is sacrificial, it is humbling, and it is uncomfortable. We love when we choose to meet the needs of others, in spite of what it may cost us personally.

As we prepare for worship, let us be mindful that God has not only called us to love one another – He has called us to love one another as He loved us! (John 15:12) May our voices and our spirits reflect the glory and the love of our great God. We love because He first loved us – praise God from whom all blessings flow!