

DISCUSSION IDEAS

TRUTH & LOVE

May 1st, 2016

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♦ DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHAT ACTUALLY IS A CHURCH.

For reference, the Greek word we translate as "church" is "ecclesia" (eh-kleh-SEE-ah). It means "a called-out group of people".

This term comes from the democracy of Athens. People were called out to discuss and vote issues.

The term was never applied to a building; it only applied to people. ¹

How does the idea of being "called out" fit our relationship with Christ?

How does the idea of "family" apply to a church, as well as to the world-wide body of Christ? Compare Matt. 12:46-50.

What if a family becomes ingrown and ignores those around them?

♦ DISCUSSION POINT TWO: TRUTH.

Look at what the Apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:14 to 4:5 when he wrote to the missionary, Timothy.

How does the concept of TRUTH apply to the character of our Father God?

Consider Jesus prayer for us in John 17:13-21.

Look at what Jesus states in John 14:6.

How does He describe the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17?

Consider Jesus' statement to Pilate in John 18:37.

What does our relationship to God say about our commitment to Truth?

What is the warning in 2 Tim. 4:4?

What happens when the Truth is scary, or can offend others?

What if it offends me?

♦ DISCUSSION POINT THREE: TRUTH PLUS LOVE

Put 1 John 4:10 next to 1 John 4:19.

Do not accidentally read v.19 as "We love Him, because"

What are we actually being told here?

How does God's love give us confidence?

Read 1 John 3:16-24.

Now go back to vv. 20-21.

Look at the description of agape Love in 1 Co. 13:4-8a.

¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecclesia_\(ancient_Athens\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecclesia_(ancient_Athens))

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What does it mean in v. 8 that "Love never ends", (or, "never fails")?

If we are to be characterized by God's Love, how does that apply to the way we act towards others when we stand up for Truth?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION:**

How does spending time reading and absorbing what the Word says allow us to truly understand God's Love?

Think about the statement that our default attitude is to be Self-Centered.

How can we be transformed to become Other-Centered?

Am I even personally committed to being changed?

In what ways can I put being Other-Centered into action today? This week?

♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Ask God to keep us focused on His priorities.

Ask Him to us sort out Truth from distorted teachings.

Ask Him to help us live out His agape LOVE, both for our fellow believers, and for those who reject or ignore Him.

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.

Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoldstads. It is a VERY hot season right now. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.

Pray for Eddie, as he grows in Christ and takes on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.

Thank God for Seth, who insisted on sharing his testimony openly and in person (not videotaped), even though he is very shy.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.