



Love Came Down – Love That Changes Us

Date: Sunday 18th December 2022

Speaker: Jon Solway & Phil Grasham

Key Verses: 1 John 3:1-10

Talk Summary:

The evil in our world comes from 2 places - the enemy (Satan or the Devil), and our fallen human nature of selfishness and self-preservation. But God has called us His children (v1) and sent His Son, Jesus to bring us hope. Jesus comforts us in our pain and struggle, and He also changes us.

Jesus has created us all with perfection in mind. He loves us so much that He invites us to come as we are - openly, honestly, and without hiding. But He desires so much more for us than our current existence. In fact, His desire for us is perfection, wholeness and communion with Him.

In order for us to receive that perfection, we must go through a process of being changed by His love, refined, prepared and purified (v3).

This means that we must do our best to turn away from sin - things that we know to be wrong, and instead seek God's heart and desires (v6, 9 & 10).

So how do we turn away from sin? We do this by entering into His love, through setting our eyes on Him. We shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is (v2). Don't set your eyes on sin, fix your eyes on Jesus.

Where do we go from here? Firstly, we must try and get free of the sin that entraps us. We do this by confessing our sins to one another, and then praying for each other (James 5:16). Secondly, we must recognise our Jesus and humbly come to Him to ask for forgiveness. Thirdly, we must be listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit to convict us of the things we've done wrong.

This Christmas time, let's remember the hope that Jesus brings by coming to our world, ultimately dying on the cross, to win the battle over darkness - the darkness in the world, and the darkness in us.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? (Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- What impact does Jesus' love have on us?
- What does being a child of God mean to you?
- If we sin, does that remove us from God' presence? What attitude should we have if do sin? How should we process that with God?
- How do we tell our non-Christian friends about the reality of sin, and the hope of Jesus, without putting them off or 'judging' them as sinners?
- For reflection, are there areas of sin in your life that you need to bring before God? How does God want to change you by His love?

Witness - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?

Other Notices:

- Don't forget we have a bring & share lunch after our AM services this weekend! Bring something delicious to share!