

A Study of the Church: Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry

- **What is the church?**

Community of believers

– Indwelt by the Holy Spirit

– United with Christ

– Began on the Day of Pentecost

Local community of believers – the functional unit

- **What is the church suppose to be doing?**

A living organism with function as well as form

Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry

- **How does the church equip the saints?**

Baptism

Lord's Supper

Preaching

Praying

- **How is the church organized for this work?**

Elders and deacons

Discipline – moral and doctrinal purity

What is the work of the ministry?

- **Worship**
 - Adoration of God
 - Serving God
 - Holiness
 - Spiritual
- **Singing**
 - Sing to the LORD
 - Sing praises
 - Sing the Word
 - A new song – an old song
- **Giving/stewardship**
 - Edify the giver and the recipient
 - Support ministers
 - Provide for believers in need
- **Following Jesus**
 - Cross bearing
 - Faithful servants
 - Hopeful waiting
- **Love one another**
- **Serving the weaker brother**
- **Others**
 - teaching
 - witnessing
 - praying
 - helping . . .

Love

- **A universal human affection**
- **A uniquely Divine affection**
 - God is love
 - Fruit of the Spirit
- **The chief Christian grace**
 - The Great Commandment
 - 1 Corinthians 13 – greatest eternal virtue
- **The sign of discipleship**
 - The will of Christ for His people
 - The proof of salvation
 - The love of God

THE MARKS OF A DISCIPLE
The will of Christ for His people
John 17:20-26

- **The Lord's Prayer – John 17**
 - Glory for Christ
 - Preserve the saints
 - Sanctify the saints
 - Unity of the saints
 - Take the saints to glory

- **Jesus prays for unity**
 - The will of God
 - The standard for unity – The Godhead
 - Attributes (14:7-10 – 8:58 & 10:29)
 - Work (4:34 & 6:38)
 - Future glory (17:5, 24)

- **Christian unity**
 - Christian character
 - The work of salvation
 - The hope of heaven

- **How can this be?**
 - Knowledge of God
 - Love of God in us

- **How does unity appear today?**
 - Not an ecumenical movement
 - Churches with Biblical priorities
 - The love of God

THE MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

The proof of salvation

1John 3:10-23

- **1John**

- A message for believers**

- The stated purpose**

- Fellowship (1:3)
 - Joy (1:4)
 - Sin not (2:1)
 - Assurance of eternal life (5:13)

- The character of God and the work of salvation**

- God is light
 - God is righteous
 - God is love

- The centrality of Jesus Christ**

- **The proof of salvation**

- The evidence of salvation (3:10)**

- righteousness
 - love for the brethren

- An illustration of unrighteousness and hate (3:11-13)**

- An ancient lesson: Cain
 - the world

- The Christian experience (3:14-15)**

- no longer in bondage to sin
 - no longer despise righteousness

- A clarification – true love (3:16-18)**

- example of Jesus Christ
 - love in deed and in truth

- The assurance of love (3:19-24)**

- No love for brother = no light (2:11)
 - Love for world = no love for God (2:15)
 - No love for brother = no righteousness (3:10-15, 23)

THE MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

The love of God

1John 4:7-21

- A new perspective – the nature of God

God is love (4:7-8)

- God's love
- Human (“sham”) love

God's love (4:9-11)

- God sent His only Son into the world
- God sent His Son to propitiate
- God sent His Son for us to follow

God's love in us (4:12-19)

- love for one another.
- no fear of final wrath
- saving love

The love of God

- ▶ **The will of Christ for us**
- ▶ **The proof of our salvation**
- ▶ **The nature of God in us**

Evidence of the love of God

- ▶ **Christian character**
- ▶ **Pursuit of salvation**
- ▶ **Hope of Christ's return**