

# **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**