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