

A Family of Love – Growth Group Study

16/8/2020 – John Malcolm

Bible Reading Ephesians 3:14–4:16

How do people in the community view the church? What is our reputation? Is there a tension between what our reputation is and what our reputation should be – if so why is this?

Read Matthew 5:44–46 & John 13:34–35

What are Christians to be known by, and why is this reputation important?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–8, 1 Peter 4:8 & 1 John 4:18

Why do you think the bible highlights the value of love?

Among the values in the bible the Apostle Paul reminds us, the greatest of these is love, and John suggested, Paul should have added and *the hardest of these is love*.

Given humanity values love, why is it so hard for us to consistently act with love?

Dr Jones (as recounted by Mary Jo Sharp in her book *Why I still Believe*), after studying genocide stated, *Every genocide researcher I know says – and every genocide victim agrees – that “it’s the average member of a population that commits genocide.” “We do not understand the depth of our evil. And one of the ways I put is that we were all born Auschwitz enabled”*.

What do you think he meant by the phrase *Auschwitz enabled*?

Are humans essentially good and occasionally go wrong or are humans basically bad and occasionally do right?

The phrase to look for the good in people suggests the good isn’t always obvious. What is humanity’s natural default position regarding right and wrong?

Read Ephesians 3:17–19

What does it mean to be rooted and established in love?

Why does Paul suggest we need power to grasp the love of Christ?

John stated, if we are naturally born *Auschwitz enabled* then we need to be born again, this time *Love enabled*. How might being rooted and established in love, shape us to be love-enabled?

Imagine a love-enabled church – what might such a church be inspired to do and what reputation would it gain?

For reflection

What would your life look like if it was “love enabled”?

How might our church express love to each other and the wider community during this COVID alert?