**Spiritual Simplicity Leader Guide**

**Session 7: What the World Needs Now**

**Pseudo – Love Substitutes**

* Affirmation from success
* Adulation from fame
* Temporary intimacy from sex
* Attention we get from our appearance or possessions
* Esteem we receive from our position
* Security we perceive in our wealth

Our quest to be loved personally and deeply creates fast – paced, over – extended, complex lives driven to obtain success, fame, sex, looks, position, power, and wealth in a desperate hope that we will be\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ … just for who we are!

**Three Questions About Love We Must Answer**

* Where do you find it?
* How do you get it?
* How do you give it away?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ do you find love?

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

**1 John 4:7-8**

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

**Zephaniah 3:17**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** do you get love?
   * Through our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family.
   * Through our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family.
   * Through times of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

**Romans 5:3-5 (NASB)**

Sometimes the very thing we want to be taken away is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from God that allows so we can experience Him like never before.

1. How do you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ love away?

Jesus did a number of very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things to give love away.

* He talked with people.
* He walked with people.
* He ate with people.
* He prayed with people.
* He suffered with people
* He taught people
* He forgave people

**Discussion Questions**

* Which of those pseudo substitutes of love are you most tempted by?
* When you were growing up, how openly was love expressed in your family?
* How were you impacted personally by the way your family did or did not express love? How hard is it for you to openly express love?
* Chip said “Someone the very thing we want to be taken away is a grace gift from God that allows so we can experience Him like never before.” Share a time or experience when you found this to be true.

**Going Deeper**

* Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV) says,

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

**Zephaniah 3:17**

How does this verse align with the view of God you have been carrying around? How hard is it for you to embrace that God delights in you and rejoices over you with singing?

* Who in your family or circle of friends desperately need to know that God loves them? In what specific ways can you express God’s love to them in the coming week?
* From the list of ways that Jesus gave love away, which one could you put into practice immediately?