

Walking with God: Holy Interactions

In this bible study we will discuss God's expectations of us in how we treat each other. There are several principles he calls us to, but they are all rooted in love. Let's start by reading a couple of verses that show how that in the end, it's all about love:

- John 13:34
- Matthew 22:36-40

God gets more specific in teaching us how we can exercise love for one another in our interactions with each other. For example, he tells us to not judge each other, forgive one another, not gossip about each other and believing the best about each other. Let's take a look at verses that talk about these things:

- Matthew 5:43-48
- Luke 6:37
- Matthew 7:12
- Proverbs 16:28
- Colossians 3:12-13

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of these do you find most challenging? Discuss why.
2. What's the evil in gossip? Why does God tell us not to engage in it?
3. What might be some strategies to deal with gossip you're hearing? Think of not only things you may do, but what you yourself might do with the information, i.e., do you believe it necessarily?
4. Have you ever prayed for an "enemy", or someone that causes you difficulty in any way?
5. How are we supposed to not judge other people if we know what they're doing is wrong?
There is a difference between judging an action and judging a person. We can judge stealing as a wrong thing to do, but we should refrain from judging the person in the process, only God has the right to do that. Only God knows what led them to that point, how guilty they really are, etc.
6. We think of judging other people in terms of judging sinful acts, but can you also think of examples where we judge someone but not necessarily for a sin? For example, things our bosses do that we don't like, or teachers or friends?
7. Considering all that we've discussed, is there someone God is putting on your mind in terms of how you've been treating them or thinking of them?