



SIGNS OF LIFE

About the Series

In this brief eight week series, Pastor Bryan will explore different topics that display to us what life from God looks like. The good news is that although sin and death are all around us, God has not abandoned us nor this world to be conquered by them. In his great love, he has intervened and initiated a new work by establishing a better Kingdom. The true King has come and placed these signs of life for us to see! In the next eight weeks, we will study the following topics:

- 12/23 **Incarnation** (God became one of us)
- 12/30 **Transformation** (God changes us)
- 1/6 **Community** (God welcomes us)
- 1/13 **Worship** (God is enjoyed by us)
- 1/20 **Love** (God loves through us)
- 1/27 **Generosity** (God gives through us)
- 2/3 **Reconciliation** (God makes peace through us)
- 2/10 **Mission** (God reaches the lost through us)

This Week: Love (God loves through us)

The one great sign that points to the reality that God has given us new life is whether or not we love -- love God and love others. Love is the one true apologetic (defense) that we belong to God and that God has sent His son into this world (see the below verses).

Read

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By *this* all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 17:20-21 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, [21] that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

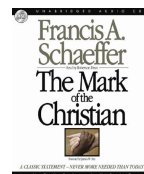
Application: Answer the below questions:

- Love in our culture could be best described as "sentimentality" or a good emotional feeling. Yet, when the Bible speaks of loving one another, it refers more to the act or devotion rather than the good feeling that one receives when they love. How does a failure to differentiate between these two types of love bring confusion to actually obeying the command, to love.
- Jesus describes loving others as a command. Commands are often broken. When the command to love one another is not obeyed by Christians, what negative impressions does this leave upon a non-Christian world? (hint: see Jn 13:35, Jn 17:21b)
- 1 John 4:19 states, "We love because he first loved us." How does being loved by God teach and train us to love others?

Prayer

- We know that we do not love God and others as we ought. Pray that God would help us first to receive and trust his love for us by remembering the cross (Rom 5:8). Ask God to help you to be more loving to others.
- If there are specific people you need to ask God to give you love for, confess this to your group/family and pray for God's help to love them.

Recommended Resources



Download a free version at: <http://bit.ly/WOo7MV>

Community Group Discussion

- Read scripture together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking the questions & taking the time to share/respond.
- Pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have a child/adult read the passage aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests, invite them to pray & sing a worship song together.