

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LOVE FOR ALL THE SAINTS
Colossians — Week 8

ICEBREAKER: If you had to change your first name, what name would you choose?

OVERVIEW: The Bible commands us to love everyone — even our enemies. But it also commands us to show *special* love to certain people — parents, children, and spouse, for example. But that’s not all. There’s another group of people that God wants us to love in a special way — Fellow believers. The Bible calls this virtue “love for all the saints,” or “brotherly affection,” or *philadelphia*. In this discussion we will go deeper with how we can personally improve at this important Christian virtue.

1. **Read Colossians 1:3-4.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Brotherly affection means to be especially loving to fellow believers. Why should we show special love to fellow believers? Isn’t it wrong to love some people more than others?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:8. One reason to be especially loving to fellow believers is to foster unity in the church. What does it mean that “love covers a multitude of sins”?
4. Another reason to be especially loving to fellow believers is because we have so much in common – even more than our own family. What are some things that we have in common with fellow believers?

5. What are some specific ways that we are to display brotherly affection?
6. Read John 13:34-35. How is this a new command? What does it mean to love other believers the way Jesus has loved us?
7. Read 1 Peter 1:22. Another way to show special love to fellow believers is to love one another with a pure heart. What does it mean to love them with a pure heart?
8. To really get specific about how to love other believers, we need to pay special attention to the “one anothers” and “each others” directed toward believers in the New Testament. Can you name some?
9. What are some hindrances to brotherly affection – some things that make brotherly affection more difficult to live out?
10. How can you improve at brotherly affection?

The Last Word: The local church should be the club that everyone wants to join. How? Not by attracting them with entertainment, or by watering down the message, but by wowing them with our special love for one another.