

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, SMALL GROUPS

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”

2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share

[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation and Conversation on today’s text:

Date: 10/31/2021 – “Christ’s Loving Cure for the Irritable and Resentful” (1 Corinthians 13:5b)

Outline:

- Love isn’t Irritable
- Love isn’t Resentful

1. How would you define irritability? Resentfulness? Irritability in the original language has the sense of “something sharp or pointed”. Why does Paul think these sins are so serious in the life of the church?

2. In our families, friendships, workplaces, and church family, we are sure to sin against one another in these things. If the diagnosis of “irritability” or “resentful” is *sin*, we need God’s cure! How does meditating on God’s character help us deal with these sins? See Exodus 34:6 ; Neh. 9:17; Psalm 145:3, 8.

3. How do these passages from Proverbs help us think through the blessings of combating these relational sins:

- **Proverbs 14:29** Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.
- **Proverbs 15:18** A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.
- **Proverbs 16:32** Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.
- **Proverbs 19:11** Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

4. One writer calls “resentment” in v. 5 ‘*yesterday’s irritation scratched onto the sensitive membranes of our memory...memory’s grip on yesterday’s evil.*’ If you see “resentment” (counting up wrongs) in a friend you have a relationship with, how can you help them?