

GROWTH GROUPS

May 13, 2012

John 13:31-35

Conversation Starter:

The series beginning this morning introduces the “Core Beliefs Statement” prepared by our governing board. What beliefs do you think your church should be making statements about?

Understanding:

In this discourse in the upper room Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for life without him. While Jesus has certainly taught the disciples many things in their life together there were certainly many other things the disciples disagreed about. This passage seeks to convey this important message: **“If we believe the right things wrong, we miss the heart of the gospel.”**

Questions:

1. Verses 31 and 32 use the word “glorify” frequently. Here this word means, *“to bring into the light, to reveal, to acknowledge God’s character and attributes in a worshipful way.”* How does the person of Jesus Christ reveal the character and attributes of God? What do you think God wants us to know about him?
2. If the purpose of the incarnation was to allow Jesus to reveal God to the world and the church is tasked with caring on this mission (being called the body of Christ), in what ways should be church be seeking to reveal God to the world?
3. Jesus commands his disciples to “love one another” as Christ had modeled love for them. Jesus said this is the way the he would be revealed to the world, through his disciples. In some ways the act of loving someone seems very simple, but in other ways it is quite challenging. From your knowledge of the Bible, consider the ways that Jesus exhibited love to his disciples and talk about what it should look like for members of the church to love one another in that way.