

## **Series: The Compelling Resistance**

### **Scripture and Background Information for August 7-13.**

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD’S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we continue our series called “The Compelling Resistance.” During this series, we will go through passages that are applicable to contemporary issues that affect relationships, politics, and other important aspects of our lives and society. This week, the passage we are focusing on is 1 John 3:16-18. With these verses in mind, we will discuss what the Christian disposition is towards those who are poor and in need.

#### **Background for 1 John 3:16-18:**

1 John is a letter that is incredibly concerned with Christian fellowship. Specifically, John discusses two aspects of Christian fellowship; fellowship with God and fellowship amongst believers (1 John 1:3). He reminds his audience early on in this letter that fellowship with God is an important aspect of salvation and that our unity with Him is what allows us to have proper fellowship and unity with each other as Christians (1 John 1:5-7).

Starting in chapter 3, John continues his discussion on Christian fellowship by calling his audience children of God (1 John 3:1). He uses this title to describe another way in which we relate to God and to each other in Christian fellowship. To John, one aspect of being a child of God is that we live righteously by loving one another (1 John 3:10, 4:7-8, 5:1-3).

Our passage for today, 1 John 3:16-18, falls in this section that talks about the love that the children of God should have for one another. In verse 16, John uses Jesus’ sacrifice for us as the ultimate example of what true love is and urges his audience to love sacrificially in the same way. As an application to this challenge, John calls his audience to love others with their actions by giving generously to those who are in need.

#### Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. Why is it important for us to love others the way Christ loved us? How does the challenge to love others sacrificially in verse 16 relate to the example given in verse 17?
2. What is the difference between loving someone with words or speech and loving someone with deeds or actions? How does loving in action or deed relate to loving in truth? Why is it important to love others in action and in truth?
3. Who are people you know that are in need? (This could be both individuals or groups of people in society) How can you love them like we are called to in this passage?

*Note: Our God, in His love, has given us salvation which is the most gracious and generous gift of all time. He had to give the greatest sacrifice, Jesus Himself, in order to do this. Therefore, we who are called children of God must love sacrificially by giving generously to those who need our help.*