

- e) In the second century the believers' love drew the well documented comment: *'behold, how these Christians love each other!'* It attracted people to the gospel.

#### QUESTION 5

- a) Although Peter does not fully understand what Jesus is saying here (the disciples will only understand fully after the resurrection); he nevertheless realises that death is imminent.
- b) Peter is genuinely willing to go all the way for Jesus; although in the end he cannot go through with it.
- c) What Peter is about to go through with the denial of Jesus will be a painful learning curve. However; he will come out of it stronger.
- d) Jesus' words to Peter in verse 38 seem to hit home. He remains uncharacteristically silent during the rest of these chapters that are known as Jesus' farewell discourse'.

#### QUESTION 6

- a) The Bible is full of verses that speak about putting others before ourselves: e.g. **Romans 12:13; Romans 15:1; Philippians 2:4; 1 John 3:16-18.**
- b) Francis Schaeffer, the well-known 20<sup>th</sup> Century theologian and Pastor once wrote: *"God gave the world the right to judge us on our love."* He went on to suggest two ways Christians can show love for each other: firstly by being willing to apologise and seek forgiveness from those we have wronged; and secondly to grant forgiveness to those who have wronged us.

#### GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 4

#### QUESTION 1

- a) Jesus knew what lie ahead. Jesus is showing that His glory is wrapped up with the Father's glory and the Father's glory with His. They are one and the same goal.
- b) To glorify God is to magnify or display His perfect attributes. It therefore seems strange to say that He would be glorified through false accusation, a mock trial and a cruel death on a cross.
- c) However; at the cross, God's love, righteousness, justice, mercy, and grace were magnified as on no other occasion in history.
  - Bishop J C Ryle gives a really helpful explanation in his commentary on John. I have underlined the key words that express the attributes of God:

*The crucifixion brought glory to the **FATHER**. It glorified His wisdom, faithfulness, holiness, and love. It showed Him wise, in providing a plan whereby He could be just, and yet the Justifier of the ungodly. It showed Him faithful, in keeping His promise, that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. It showed Him holy, in requiring His law's demands to be satisfied by our great Substitute. It showed Him loving, in providing such a Mediator, such a Redeemer, and such a Friend for sinful man as His co-eternal Son.*

*The crucifixion brought glory to the **SON**. It glorified His compassion, His patience, and His power. It showed Him most compassionate, in dying for us, suffering in our stead, allowing Himself to be counted sin and a*

curse for us, and buying our redemption with the price of His own blood. It showed Him most patient, in not dying the common death of most men, but in willingly submitting to such horrors and unknown agonies as no mind can conceive, when with a word he could have summoned His Father's angels, and been set free. It showed Him most powerful, in bearing the weight of all a world's transgressions, and vanquishing Satan and despoiling him of his prey.

## QUESTION 2

- a) Jesus in verse 33 is referring to His death on the cross when He talks about going to a place to where the disciples cannot follow.
- b) The fact that the disciples cannot come with Him doesn't mean they will not have to suffer for their faith. But that is for another time.
- c) What is about to happen to bring salvation to the world can only be accomplished by the perfect Lamb of God.
- d) Jesus knew that this was something He would have to carry out alone; He was even forsaken by the Father at that crucial moment (Matt 27:46): *"How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away, as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory"* (Townend).
- e) In verse 36 Simon Peter typically jumps in to clarify what Jesus means.
- f) This time Jesus does refer to the disciples' suffering, and verse 36 gives a reference to Peter's future martyrdom (see also **John 21:18-19**).

## QUESTION 3

- a) Having told the disciples that God would be glorified through the cross; Jesus now shows that He will also be glorified through the actions of His people.
- b) In one sense this new love is not significantly different to the Old Testament 'love your neighbour as yourself'.
- c) The 'newness' is in it being the law of the New Covenant connected to the cross. It is new in that the cross expresses greater depths to its meaning; and makes every definition until now pale into insignificance.
- d) It presents a higher standard of love. As someone put it: *"The 'fine print' is that phrase, 'even as I have loved you.' That bumps His command up to a Mt. Everest kind of command!"* (Cole).
- e) Just as in verse 1 Jesus showed His disciples the extent of His love; now the cross will truly define that love.

## QUESTION 4

- a) Christian love and fellowship is unique in this world. It reflects the difference that knowing Christ in our lives makes.
- b) J C Ryle described it as being: *'the test of Christianity before the world'*.
- c) So radical is it that it reflects the love that Jesus' showed for us by going to the cross. Christian love is therefore by definition, sacrificial.
- d) A loving community of God's people has been described as *'the visible authentication of the gospel'* (Milne). **1 John 4:19** *"We love because He first loved us"*.