

# UNSHAKEABLE

INTIMACY WITH GOD LEADS TO CONFIDENT FAITH

**About the Series:** In a dark world, God is light. In a cold world, God brings love. In a dying world, God brings life. In this study of John's first letter, you will learn what it means to be in fellowship with God and see that growing more intimately close to Him builds up a confident faith that will allow you to be unshakeable in times of uncertainties.

## PART 5

### Love Redefined

1 John 3:10-23 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

#### Discussion Questions

1. In our culture today, love has been defined in such a way that you must accept all lifestyles, choices, and beliefs. But would it also mean loving what they believe and do even if what they believe is contrary to what the Bible teaches? What does loving others mean to you?
2. As a follower of Jesus who is supposed to love others, it's important for us to hold to biblical principles in order to build up a confident faith that is unshakable in challenging times, especially when the world is redefining what loving one another means. Read and discuss 1 John 3:10-23.

**Love is not the tolerance of wrongs but the upholding of righteousness and truth (v. 10-13).** What did John say is the expression of new life in Christ? For what reasons did he say Cain killed his brother Abel? In what ways could a Christian dislike other Christians who are more spiritual than they are? Why would the world hate those who live according to what the Bible instructs Christians to do? How would you treat a loved one or a friend whose choices are harmful and against the Scripture? Would you intervene? Why or why not? How would you help that person?

**Followers of Jesus love one another because they are new creations in Christ (v. 14-15).** What did John mean when he said "He who does not

love his brother abides in death?" Why is murder (even just in your mind) an expression of hatred? Could a person who hates someone have an intimate walk with Christ? Why is it possible for Christians to love one another, even those whom you may consider an enemy? How can you love without strings attached, or without expecting anything in return?

**Love is expressed in our readiness to do anything without limits (v. 16-18).** What did God do to show His unlimited love for everyone? What did John say that you can do to show your love to others (v. 17)? Give examples of how you can practice love in action to those who are in need. How are you emulating God and serving Him when you give back by helping others? Share the most sacrificial love you have done for someone.

**Loving others is a matter between you and God and not between you and that person (v. 19-23).** What does it communicate to you that God knows the motives of why you do what you do? What happens when your heart is aligned with God's heart? Why is it important to understand that loving others is a matter between you and God and not between you and that person you ought to love?

#### Reflect & Respond

Is there anyone in your life whom you find difficult to love? What are the reasons you find it difficult? Pause and take time to pray for God to help you love this person. Then think of ways you can use the four principles discussed to work out how you can express biblical love to that person.

#### Prayer

Heavenly Father, I find it difficult to love someone whom I think doesn't deserve my attention, how much more to love someone who I actually think doesn't deserve my love. But You have shown me clearly that I should do it because it is the right thing to do. You have shown how much You love me through Jesus Christ, and as Your child, I am capable of showing love to others as well. Help me to do it willingly for Your sake. Help me to build up a confident faith that will help me as I go through challenges and changing times. In Jesus' name. Amen.