

Dr. Baucom and Rev. Loewer continue the sermon series **All in the Family (of God)** this week with **The Kingdom Paternity Test** based on **1 John 4:7- 5:21**.

1. What is the purpose of a paternity test?
  - Why might such a test be needed?
  - What are its strengths?
2. Have you ever felt like you didn't 'fit' with your family?
  - If so, what made you feel different?
  - What might it take for you to feel a part of the family?
3. **Read and reflect on 1 John 4:7-21.** Sit with the passage for several minutes. Read it again, slowly and reflectively.
  - In Verse 7, John states we can be '*born of God*'. How does he say we can recognize this relationship?
  - What is the family resemblance we are asked to manifest?
  - Rest with the thought that you are *born of God*, you are His child; how do you feel?
  - Close your eye and picture life living in His love, sharing His love. How might you describe this love?

**Read 1 John 5:1-11.** How do your reflections and insights from this passage affect your understanding of being *born of God*?

4. **Read John 15:1-11 and re-read 1 John 4: 12-17.**
  - What similarities did you discover in these passages?
  - How does John reaffirm the teaching of Jesus?
  - What differences do you find?

5. Read the following verses for an understanding of what it means to *love one another*.

- **John 13: 34-35**
- **Matthew 5:43-48**
- **John 15:12-17**
- **Galatians 5:13-14**

- What have you learned? What insights have you gained?
- What do you understand about how we are being asked to live in relationship with others?
- According to scripture what does our loving others show the watching world? To whom do we belong?

6. **Read 1 Corinthians 13.**

- How is love described in this passage?
- How do these passages challenge you to live out of love in your life??
- Why do we move to the Light?

7. **Re-read John 13:34-35** and reflect on what God is saying to you. Do you pass the paternity test? Can other clearly see you are Christ's disciple? Is there any question?

8. Reflect on your own life. Has God has shown you that you could be more loving in some relationships, toward some persons? What might you change so that you can love others in the name of Jesus?

Ask your ignition group to pray with you concerning all God has revealed to you through this study.