



Assembly of  
**Confessing Congregations**  
within the Uniting Church in Australia

# **This is Love**

## *A Study Guide*

**Assembly of Confessing Congregations Inc.**

ABN 73 794 518 715 ARBN 128 001 785

Incorporated in NSW INC9887628 Liability of Members is Limited

**Registered Office:** 2 Erskineville Road, Newtown NSW

**Postal Mail:** PO Box 968 Newtown NSW 2042 **Tel:** (02) 9550 5358

**Email:** [accoffice@confessingcongregations.com](mailto:accoffice@confessingcongregations.com)

**Website:** [www.confessingcongregations.com](http://www.confessingcongregations.com)

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## Notes

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## Conversation 1 - Love is of God

What stood out for you from this conversation that never occurred to you before?

Are there any Bible passages that were shown in a new light in this conversation?

How is God's love different from human love? Can they be contradictory?

P.T.Forsyth said "God is holy love". How are God's love and holiness in harmony?

Read 1 John 4:10. Can we really know love without knowing the love that God has shown us through Jesus? What does this mean to the way we live?

## Conversation 6 – Holy Communion with God

What stood out for you from this conversation that never occurred to you before?

Would it be any good for the "old us – our weak, sinful, hopeless self – to be finally, ultimately no more? (This is what has happened in Jesus' shedding of His blood for us!) How would this practically help us in not having to carry the burden of "managing" the "old us"?

The draining away of Jesus blood in the cross has given a "blood transfusion" bringing new life for us; forgiven, right with God, with a clear conscience, able to enjoy unhindered intimacy with God the Father. How could this change your experience of worship, and of Holy Communion?

Communion is a deep and intimate relationship. We have this communion with the 'holy' God. How good is this?

## Conversation 5 – How reconciled can you be?

What stood out for you from this conversation that never occurred to you before?

What are some of the characteristics of a fully reconciled relationship?

God is the Father of His family, and we are reconciled into this family relationship through Jesus. What difference does it make to us that we are in a family relationship with God?

If every person on the planet has been included in Christ's justifying, reconciling work (Rom 5:12-21, 2 Cor 5:16-21), then what is our attitude to all people? And our mission to them?

Read 2 Cor 5:16-21. What is the relationship between verse 21 and the reconciliation discussed in the rest of that passage?

## Conversation 2 – Does God get angry with us?

What stood out for you from this conversation that never occurred to you before?

When we know that we have done wrong, in our heart-of-hearts do we want to “get off scott free”, or to have someone get angry with us? Why?

Someone once spoke of “the good news of God's anger”. How can God's anger be good news?

Humans often get angry about the actions of others. Why is that we then struggle with the thought that God could be angry with sin?

If God just swept our sins under the carpet and forgot about them He would ultimately be unjust and unholy. How does it affect us to know that Jesus actually bore God holy wrath to its end for us?

### Conversation 3 – All debts are off!

What stood out for you from this conversation that never occurred to you before?

There is much talk in our time about paying off debts, keeping economies afloat by more debt etc. Our great hope is to be debt free, and yet we love the thought that we can work to pay off our own debt. What does it mean to us that we cannot pay the debt we owe to God and yet we are free?

Is the Christian life about paying back something that we owe to God, or simply being thankful that we owe Him nothing?

Can you believe it? Through Jesus Christ, there is absolutely nothing between you and God!

### Conversation 4 – The Judge's verdict

What stood out for you from this conversation that never occurred to you before?

“Some go to church to be punished – to make self atonement through pain, self justification or ritual”. How do you see this work out in your own life?

There is a question of authority: If our conscience, along with the evil one, and the whole world pronounces us guilty and yet God the Creator through His Son pronounces us not guilty, then which authority can we believe?

If God the Father, the Creator Almighty, declares us righteous, then we never have to fear any future judgment. Do you believe and live as though that is the truth? (You may!)