

God is Love

1 John 4: 7-11

Main Idea

God is Love, therefore those that Love have been born of God. Love is manifested in the Father sending the Son who suffered propitiation for sinners who believe.

God is Love. Love is the Gospel.

Overview

God is Love: 1 John 4: 7-11

- **Who is John writing to?**
 - (4:1) “dear friends” – John is writing to believers, specifically to the believers among the churches of Ephesus
- **How do we know what “love” is? Where does “love” come from?**
 - God is a personal God...He cares about His world and His people
 - (3:16) – “this is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life down for us...”
 - (4:7) – “...for love comes from God”
 - (4:10) – “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” – this came at a great cost to God – this shows how much personal interest God takes in us
- **How has God demonstrated that He is love?**
 - (3:16) – “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.”
 - (4:9) – “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.”
 - (4:10) – “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”
- **What does God’s love motivate us to do?**
 - **To love one another:**
 - (3:11) – “This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.”
 - (3:14) – “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers.”
 - (3:16) – “we ought to lay down our lives down for our brothers”
 - (3:18) – “let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth”
 - (3:23) – “And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us”
 - (4:7) - “...let us love one another...”; (4:11) - love one another because God first loved us
 - (4:20) – “For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.”
 - **To obey His commands:**
 - (2:5) – “But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him”
 - (2:6) – “Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did”
 - (5:3) – “This is love for God: to obey his commands.”
 - **To display the love of the family to which we have become adopted in:**
 - If we put our trust in Jesus, we get adopted into God’s family. As children of God, we experience rights and privileges as favored sons and daughters

- (3:1) – “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!”
- (3:10) – our love for one another display us belonging to God’s family as children of God
- (3:14) – “anyone who does not love remains in death...”
- (4:7) – “Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God”

Questions

Discussion Starter: Provide some examples of how our culture defines/expresses love. Or provide some examples of how the group enjoys love and the varied ways that looks like.

1. Read 1 John 4.7-12. God is Love. What is meant by this statement in light of the vss. 7-8?
2. Vs. 9-10. Use these two verses to define what love is. How does this contrast with some of the ways the world around us defines love.
3. If this is what Love is, what might we say love is not?
4. What are some false understandings of ‘love’ that we are tempted to believe? How does this understanding of love correct those lines of thinking?
5. How is God’s Love so unique?
6. What are some ways we can participate in this love and what does this love reveal? What does it say about us if we are not willing to love others (and in context, John is talking about loving other Christians)?

Accountability: Where are some areas where you are falling short in loving as you have been loved? What are some areas you have been encouraged by the others in your group?