

God Is Love

1 John 4:7-16

John – Disciple of Jesus at end of ministry & life - strong words & themes from 'son of thunder' - addressing a group leaving, false teaching - loves them, led by Holy Spirit, important message Themes... not in Darkness Walk in Light Walk in Love not in Hatred Walk in Truth not in Lies Walk in Right living not in Sin

1 John 4:7-16

1 John 4:7-16 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-16

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

1 John 4:7-16

- 1. Start with the Source 7-8
 - difficult passages love enemies, strangers, etc
 - struggle with authenticity just pretend?
 - God calls us first to the source

a) Beloved

- who you are in God's heart

b) Love from God, God is Love

- 40 times in 5 Chapters – God is love

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- Attribute of God – Love - warning – important to see all the attributes - Holy, Divine, Sovereign, Merciful, All Powerful - cannot elevate on attribute above others or to the exclusion of others. Not a true picture - start questioning if God is..... then..... - God is the standard, the definition of Love. - Holiness is the most referenced attribute of God in Scripture. Love and Holiness played out on our behalf clearest in the cross!

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c) God's Love is Transforming - whoever loves - born of God - does not love – does not know God d) Thoughts on Love - definition – 1 Cor. 13:4-8 - characteristics - selfless, sacrificial - from God – source - towards us – motivation (Rom. 5, John 3:16) - experienced – created for this - commanded – Greatest commandment

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2. Love on Display – Cross of Christ 9-10 - made manifest – set on display a) God sent – initiated - while we still sinners b) Only Son – important - divine Father, human Mother - perfect, willing to go in our place c) Into the World - human form, humbled himself Phil. 1

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d) 2 reasons - we might live - born dead in trespass and sin - propitiation - in my place, payment made for me John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Rom 5:8 "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

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- 3. Love Flows in Us and Through Us
 - come to me for love you are not the source
 - experience my love let it change you
 - take and express this love to others witness
 - enabled and empowered by My Spirit
 - a) Love one Another
 - how we operate as family, brothers & sisters
 - will be differences & difficulties love

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b) Supernaturally Enabled - word abides used 6 times in 12-16 - knowing and believing with bring growth - growth in experiencing, believing, practice c) Testify – Savior of the World - know you're mine by your love – John 15 - witness, ambassador, light - seen and responded to

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So What?

- 1. God is the Source and Definition of Love
 - chosen to initiate and demonstrate to you
 - desires you to experience it in Him
 - has been sacrificial and selfless in extending it
- 2. The Cross is the Picture of God's Love
 - manifest on display
 - giving opportunity for new life
 - providing for Justice and Holiness to be satisfied
 - you can experience the Love

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3. You are Called, Commissioned & Empowered

- to go to the source and receive
- to be obedient to choose to give love to others
 - selfless
 - sacrificial
- to be a witness to the world