

GOD'S LOVE

Key Verse: 1 John 4:7-12

Key Thought: God's love is Amazing

There is nothing like the love of God! It is the most overwhelming thing I have ever encountered in my life. It is the greatest thing God ever did for any of us! The reason I can say that is this, because He loved us, He was moved to do everything else that He has done. Allow me to say this morning that John's message has a 4-fold purpose.

That our joy might be full. (1 John 1:4)

That we might not sin. (1 John 2:1)

That we might know that we have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

That we ourselves might love others. (1 John 4:11)

1 John is the great book of love. It is mentioned 46 times in 135 verses. It was written to combat a heresy known as **Gnosticism**. **The Gnostic believed that knowledge was power. They felt that they had a special knowledge of God and His ways.** John is writing to put them in their place! And, as he does, he tells the rest of us about a great God with a great love for great sinners. It's that great love of that Great God that I want to address for a few minutes. Let the Lord speak to your heart as we consider the facts about God's love.

I. THIS LOVE IS DESCRIBED IN THE CONTEXT

a) **It Is Unspeakable** - I can't understand it, or why, but I know I have experienced it, and I can never be separated from it.

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38-39

b) **It Is Unending** - God's love is eternal!

“I have loved you with an everlasting love!”

Jeremiah 31

c) **It Is Unselfish** - It asks for nothing in return! However, it leads man to repent and turn to God in love. *We love him because He first loved us!*

d) **It Is Undeserved** - Cannot be earned or deserved! His love is based on His grace!

e) **It Is Unconditional** - It is not based on what we can or cannot produce, it comes from the heart of God. Man can never reach a place when he will not be loved by God! God loved us first; He loved us anyway and He loves us eternally!

His love is Supernatural, it is Sacrificing, it is Satisfying!

II. THIS LOVE WAS DEMONSTRATED AT CALVARY

God's love can never be fully understood, but it can be seen! It was best seen at the cross!

a) **He Stood in The Gap** – *HE TOOK YOUR PLACE!*

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”

2 Corinthians 5:21

b) **He Saved Us from Hell** - It is His death on the cross, the death that released His precious blood, that opened the door of salvation for every sinner who will come to God.

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”

Ephesians 1:7

“In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Colossians 1:14

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood!
Thank God for the Blood of the Lord Jesus!!!!

III. THIS LOVE IS DISPLAYED IN THE CHRISTIAN

It will be visible **if** it is possessed! Notice throughout the Bible, there have been men who demonstrated God's love:

a) Forgiving Love - *Joseph* - Genesis 45:1-8.....lied about, sold as a slave, ripped from his home and father, falsely accused, put in prison! He spent years waiting all because of his jealous brothers! YET HE STILL FORGAVE.....What's your hangup?

b) Redeeming Love - Hosea - Hosea 3:1-3 His very wife named Gomer, a known prostitute.... yet! He defended and loved her! What redeeming love!

c) Compassionate Love – Peter denied Jesus, lied about Him; Yet Jesus still said...On this Rock I will build my church! Peter was given an understanding that the Church would be built upon Jesus as the Only Rock of its foundation.

d) Healing Love: Me – angry; bitter; jealous; burning with lust! Yet Jesus still reached down and picked me up out of the sewer!

*“Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion”*

Psalm 103:1-4

When the love of God is present in the life of a believer, it will be visible in 5 different areas.

1. Love For the Saviour:

“If you love me keep my commandments!” John 14:15

2. Love For the Scriptures:

“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life.

These are the very Scriptures that testify about me” John 5:39

3. Love For the Sanctuary

“not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:25

David joyfully exclaimed in *Psalms 122:1*- ***“I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID TO ME, LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!”***

4. Love For the Saints

“Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”

1 John 4:20-21

When the saints walk in love, then God will be seen!

5. Love For the Sinners - Jesus had a heart for sinners! God's love is more than just being loved! It is opening our lives so that the Lord can love through us. So that He can reach a world for Himself.

In closing, we ought to praise the Lord today for His overwhelming love! We can shout, we can run, scream and shout, but the best means we have of thanking Him for His love is by letting Him love through our lives and reach others for Jesus. *I invite you to join me today as I ask the Lord to help me to love like Jesus.* I thank Him for loving me, and I am sure you do too.

Today let's show that love for God by doing His will and being what He would have us be, and by loving like He would have us love. By loving others exactly as we have been loved by God –

Matthew 22:39- “you shall love your neighbor as yourself!”

Place: FCA

Date: February 23, 2025

Time: 10:30 am

After Service: Power of Your Love