

The Arrival of Love

December 23, 2012

1 JOHN 3:1-3; 4:7-14

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Core Competency:

Love- I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and His love is perfected in us. (1 John 4:10–12)

Using This Study

1 EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate really matter, so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

2 DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

3 LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

Introduction

It is important to consider both message and messenger when evaluating what we hear. Our passage this week was written by the Apostle John—a man who spent three years with the Messiah as part of his inner circle. What was he like?

Thankfully, the Gospels give insight into John's personality. Jesus called him one of the "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:16-17). Perhaps this references a zealous, act-now-think-later response to life. You probably know people like that.

A reading of John's gospel suggests that somewhere along the way he had an epiphanic moment in his walk with Christ. Perhaps it came as he reflected upon the discontinuity between his love, and the love that Mary had for the Lord—

Then Mary took a pound of fragrant oil — pure and expensive nard — anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped His feet with her hair... (John 12:3)

Or, perhaps it was Christ's own expression of love and humility towards John himself that intensified his insight into the love of God—

... So He got up from supper, laid aside His robe, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him. (John 13:5)

Whatever ever it was, we see a changed man. God's love transformed him and, consequently, urgently appeals to you and me: "Don't miss it! Don't miss out on the love of God!"

This Week

John wrote these words two thousand years ago, but the message still has the power to change lives. John is excited about it, it changed him, and he wants his readers to see through his eyes, and hear through his ears – the life that is in the Son.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate really matter, so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Read 1 John 3:1-3; 4:7-14

1 Look at how great a love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children. And we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know Him.

2 Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure.

4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

8 The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9 God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

10 Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another.

12 No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and His love is perfected in us.

13 This is how we know that we remain in Him and He in us: He has given assurance to us from His Spirit.

14 And we have seen and we testify that the Father has sent His Son as the world's Savior.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others>

1. John starts verse 3:1 with an emphatic "Look", why the emphasis? Compare John 21:24 and 1 John 1:1.
2. After John's emphatic "look", what two points does he want us to see regarding the greatness of God's love in the first sentence of 3:1?
3. There are two time references in 3:2, what are they? What is John contrasting with these two time references in 3: 2-3?
4. In 4:10 John uses the word "propitiation" in describing God's love. How does that word relate to John's statement in 4:11 "if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another."?

5. Compare John's description of love in these passages with 1 Cor. 13: 4-7. Are these definitions of love similar, dissimilar, or complementary? Explain. How are these definitions different than how you normally demonstrate love to others?

Sermon Notes:

③LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

Consider the question: What do you think it will take for us to understand and apply John's passionate message about the love of Christ?

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *1 Peter 1:8-9*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.