

“Christmas and God’s Love”
1 John 4:7-16
Sunday Morning December 21, 2008

**God’s love is clearly seen thru the “Birth of the Son of God” –
1 John 4:8-9**

**God’s love is clearly seen thru the “Sacrifice of the Son of God”
– John 3:16**

- 1. Verses 7-8 – The Proclamation Of God’s Love**
- 2. Verses 9-10 – The Proof Of God’s Love**
- 3. Verses 11-16 – The Purpose of God’s Love**

1. Verses 7-8 – The Proclamation Of God’s Love:

1 John 4:16

God is love; meaning – “God’s eternal and essential nature is that of love”

God is Spirit (John 4)

God is light (1 John 1:5)

God is a consuming fire (Deut 4:24)

Hab 3:2

In the Greek language there are 4 different words for love:

1. Eros - not used in the Bible. It is sexual love - eros - erotic - it's a receiving love, not giving
2. Storgee - not used in the Bible. Family love/parental.
3. Phileo - Human love. Affection - brotherly love; affection - human love.
4. Agape - this is God’s love. Unconditional - Loves for no apparent reason – a love that exists to demonstrate - Divine love, spiritual plane - experienced only by believers, thru a new birth.

“Not based on performance, excellence or true worth, but a love that is a deliberate choice - made without assignable cause, save that which lies in the very nature of God Himself.”

God’s Love is Great - Eph 2:4

God’s Love is Infinite – cannot exhaust it.

God’s love is Immutable (Unchanging) - James 1:17

God’s Love is Gracious – 1 John 4:19 1 Cor 13

God’s Love is Eternal – Jer 31:3

God’s Love is Amazing – 1 John 4:10

God’s Love is Giving – John 3:16

1 John 4:8

What God is, determines what we ought to be - 1 John 4:17

2. Verses 9-10 – The Proof Of God’s Love:

Manifested means “to come out in the open, to be made public.” It is the opposite of “to hide, to make secret.”

Why was Jesus Christ manifested?

1. To take away sins: 1 John 3:5

The greatest expression of God’s love is in the death of His Son. Rom. 5:8

2 Cor 5:21

2. Destroy the works of the Devil: 1 John 3:8

3. That we could live thru him: 1 John 4:9

1 John 4:9 His only begotten Son; It means “unique, the only one of its kind.”

1 John 4:10

Romans 3:25

Ex. 25:22

Lev. 16:30

Lev. 16:14

1 Peter 3:18

3. Verses 11-16 – The Purpose of God’s Love

“Beloved, if God so loved us”; literally – “God in a point and time loved us, and will go on loving us in eternity.”

Purpose: So we could love one another; we also ought to love one another.

There are 6 reasons why we should love:

1. Because Love is from God: (1 John 4:7)
2. Because God is love: (1 John 4:8)
3. Because of what God has done: (1 John 4:9-11)
4. Because God wants to reveal Himself thru us: (1 John 4:12)

God abides in us, The word abide (dwell) is used 6X in 1 John 4:12-16.

Abides – “refers to our personal fellowship with Jesus Christ. To abide in Christ means to remain in spiritual oneness with Him, so that no sin comes between us.”

5. Because God has given the believer the Holy Spirit: (1 John 4:13)

Romans 5:5

6. Because the believer has personally witnessed that God is love by sending His Son to be the Savior of the world: (1 John 4:14-16)

Matt 1-2; Luke 1-2

Isa 9:6-7

1 John 4:15

Confesses – not merely head knowledge - “Placed faith in God who came in the flesh, died and rose again, a promise, complete surrender and obedience”

Application:

1. The Proclamation Of God’s Love: God is love
2. The Proof Of God’s Love: Birth, death and resurrection
3. The Purpose of God’s Love: That we would love