

“God’s Love At Christmas”
1 John 4:7-16
Sunday Morning December 23, 2018

Christmas, in its essence, is “God’s Love!” That God sent His only Son to earth to be the Savior of the world!

God’s Love Is Clearly Seen Through The “Birth of The Son of God” – 1 John 4:9.

God’s Love Is Clearly Seen Through The “Sacrifice of The Son of God” – John 3:16.

Background – John calls men back to truth about the real Jesus: 1 John 1:6.

Theme – 1 John – “Fellowship With God.”

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

1. Verses 7-8 – Proclaiming God’s Love:

1 John 4:7 – “Beloved, let us love one another,” – John calls the believers “Beloved” (6th Time); its an endearing term meaning “dearly loved, loved ones.”

“everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” – The Social Test: The Test of Love.

1 John 4:8 – “for God is love.” 1 John 4:16 – “God is love,”

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

“Love does not define God, but God defines love.”

God is Spirit (John 4), God is light (1 John 1:5), God is a consuming fire (Deuteronomy 4:24).

“God is love” – means – Who God is to His very nature, that what God does is always loving, it is based and rooted in His love. It is impossible for God to do anything but that which is loving.

Even God's judgments are measured out in love and mercy: Habakkuk 3:2.

Love – is used 28X in 1 John. The word "love" – Greek word "Agape" – Which is God's love. "A love from God;" Unconditional love – Spiritual plane – experienced only by believers. "A Love not based upon performance, excellence, or true worth, but a love that is based upon a deliberate choice – made without assignable cause except that which lies in the nature of God Himself."

God's Love is Great – Ephesians 2:4.

God's Love is Infinite – cannot exhaust it, Psalm 136:26.

God's love is Immutable (Unchanging) – James 1:17.

God's Love is Gracious – 1 John 4:19.

God's Love is Eternal – Jeremiah 31:3.

God's Love is Amazing – 1 John 4:10.

God's Love is Giving – John 3:16.

To paraphrase 1 John 4:8 – "The person who does not have this divine kind of love, has never entered into a personal, experiential knowledge of God. What he knows is in his head, but it has never gotten into his heart."

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

2. Verses 9-10 – Proof Of God's Love:

1 John 4:9 – "manifested" – means "to come out in the open, to be made public."

Why was Jesus Christ revealed? For 3 Reasons:

1. To Take Away Sins: 1 John 3:5.

The greatest expression of God's love is in the death of His Son, Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

2. Destroy The Works Of The Devil: 1 John 3:8.

3. That We Could Live Through Him: 1 John 4:9.

“His only begotten Son” – It means “unique, the only one of its kind.”

How do we know that God loves us? 1 John 4:10 – “sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Romans 3:25

“whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation,” – Jesus. This means “Mercy Seat;” The ark of the covenant of Moses.

“Mercy Seat” was the place where God manifested His presence, Exodus 25:22.

Blood was applied to once a year on the day of atonement, Leviticus 16:30.

Mercy Seat was sprinkled 7 times with blood. God mercifully turned away His wrath from Israel, Leviticus 16:14; 1 Peter 3:18.

3. Verses 11-16 – Purpose Of God’s Love:

1 John 4:11 – “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.”

The Theme of this passage is “reasons to love one another!”

6 Reasons Why We Should Love:

1. Reasons To Love – Because Love Is From God: 1 John 4:7.

2. Reasons To Love – Because God Is Love: 1 John 4:8.

3. Reasons to Love – Because Of What God Has Done:
1 John 4:9-11.

4. Reasons To Love – Because God Wants To Reveal Himself Through Us: 1 John 4:12.

No one has seen God at any time; God in all of His essence and glory!

“if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.” – Jesus reveals Himself through the lives of His children.

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

"abides" – "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. Reasons To Love – Because God Has Given The Believer The Holy Spirit: 1 John 4:13.

The Holy Spirit gives us love, Romans 5:5.

6. Reasons To Love – Because The Believer Has Witnessed That God Is Love By Sending His Son To Be The Savior: 1 John 4:14-16.

Isaiah 9:6-7

1 John 4:15 – "Confesses" – "Placed faith in God who came in the flesh, died and rose again; a promise, a belief a trusting, complete surrender and obedience."

"God abides in him, and he in God." – Notice that this confession is not mere words or formula but words that are actions.

1 John 4:16

Application:

1. Proclaiming God's Love: 1 John 4:8 – God's Love Is Great, Infinite, Unchanging, Gracious, Eternal, Amazing And Giving.
2. Proof Of God's Love: 1 John 4:10 – Jesus Died In Our Place For Our Sins So That We Could Have A Relationship With God.
3. Purpose Of God's Love: 1 John 4:11 – God's Love Is To Be Experienced And To Be Shared.

Have We Come To Know And Believe The Love God Has For Us?

Can People Observe That We Are With God, And God Is With Us?