

Theme: The love of God - which is the source of all love - has taken human form in Jesus, and we are called to believe in Him and love others as He did.

## I. Intro – All You Need Is Love

- A. Popular Beatles song - All You Need Is Love
- B. Larry Norman - Beatles aid that - and then broke up!
- C. Everyone agrees we need love
- D. Everyone says they want love & want to love others
- E. What is real love? How is it related to Christ?

## II. The Source of Love - God Himself

- A. God is the source of love in this passage
  - 1. v9 - God showed His love
  - 2. v10 - True love is God's love
  - 3. v11 - God's love is the basis for our love
- B. God is the source of love elsewhere in Scripture
  - 1. 1 John 4:16, 19 - God's love is primary
  - 2. Ephesians 5:1-2 - imitate God; life of love
- C. All love is ultimately rooted in God
  - 1. James 1:16-17 - Every good gift from God
  - 2. All evil from Satan and the fall
  - 3. All good from God and creation - even for atheists!
  - 4. Our capacity to love comes from the image of God
  - 5. All love is an expression of common or saving grace

## III. The Expression of Love - Jesus

- A. Jesus is the expression of love in this passage
  - 1. v9 - God showed (expressed) His love among us
  - 2. v10 - God loved us - sent His Son Jesus
- B. Jesus is the expression/example of love in Scripture
  - 1. 1 John 3:16 - Jesus sacrifice shows us true love
  - 2. John 3:16 - God so loved - sent Jesus
    - a. Greek word οὕτως - so much; in this manner
    - b. Probably both in view here
  - 3. Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love
- C. Jesus' whole life is love - not just His death
  - 1. John 13:34 - As I have loved you
  - 2. John 13:1 - having loved, loved to the end (ESV)
  - 3. It is important that we reflect upon the incarnation
  - 4. His life of love and death of love of one piece

## IV. The Response of Love - Loving Others

- A. God's love in Christ calls for a response of faith
  - 1. v9 - that we **might** live - we must respond
  - 2. v10 - atoning sacrifice removes wrath
  - 3. Rom 3:22-25 - received by faith
  - 4. John 3:16 - whoever believes shall not perish

5. We access His love through faith

B. We are to love as God has loved us in Christ

1. v11 - since God loved, we also ought to love

2. 1 John 4:19-21 - we must love our brothers

3. Matthew 5:43-45 - love even enemies like God does

C. True love is seen in action - not just emotions/words

1. v9-10 - showed love; sent; sent - love in action

2. 1 John 3:16-18 - love in action, not just words

3. 1 Cor 13 - love can be seen in attitude & action

## V. Applying the Word

A. Do we see that true love has come in Christ?

1. Jesus is God's love Incarnate!

2. At Christmas we celebrate Jesus' Incarnation

3. His life - not just His death - is one of love

4. This week, think on how Jesus life & death are love

5. We will do this in communion in a moment

B. Do we see the call to respond to God's love?

1. Have we received the love of God in Christ?

2. That love is more than we can fathom!

3. Meditate on that great love given in Christ

4. Do we extend that love to others?

5. Pray for someone where there is relational trouble

6. Look for ways to be an agent of God's love!

C. Communion - Our Love Feast

### Unwrapping Love In Christ

1 John 4:9-11

December 11, 2011

Communion

2 Corinthians 13:14

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.... 19 We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:16, 19

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love... Ephesians 5:1–2

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:16–17

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. 1 John 3:16

For **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, **having loved his own** who were in the world, **he loved them to the end**. John 13:1 (ESV)

This righteousness from God comes **through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe**. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as **a sacrifice of atonement, through faith** in his blood. Romans 3:22–25

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life**. John 3:16

We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:19–21

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, 45 **that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous**. Matthew 5:43–45

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:16–18