

1 John 4:7-21

John begins this section of his letter with a very loud and clear command. v7

1. It is interesting that he begins his command to love one another with the word “beloved.”
2. You can see John’s love for the brethren coming out in his commands to the brethren to love.
3. He follows this command with a powerful discourse on love.
4. The word love is used roughly 27 times in this short text...depending on the translation you are reading...almost twice per verse!

We will see 3 insights about God and His love this morning, and then next week we will see how we are to demonstrate that love in light of God’s love for us next week.

I. God defines love v8

1. We need to know God to know love. Do you know God? How did you come to know Him?
 - a. Did you read Genesis 1:1-Revelation 22:21 in search of who He is?
 - b. Second hand information?
 1. Would you marry a blind date on the testimony of your best friend?
 2. Then why would you stake your eternity on the words of another?
2. Truth be known, most of us define God by 1 John 4:8..God is love. 2 problems!
 - a. God is so much more than just love. He is.....
 - b. When we just think of God as love, we have a tendency to define God by our idea of love
 - c. We have no right to impose upon God’s character our finite definition of love.
 - d. He made us in His image, but we often try to make Him in our image.
3. Love does not define God. God defines love!
4. Know God, then you will know love.

II. God displays love v9-10

By sending His sown into the world for two reasons.

1. That we might live through Him.
 - a. Without Him we die in Adam
 - b. With Him we live in Christ
 - c. Romans 6:3-11
 - d. Deuteronomy 4:41-42 *Then Moses set apart three cities across the Jordan to the east, 42 that a manslayer might flee there, who unintentionally slew his neighbor without having enmity toward him in time past; and by fleeing to one of these cities he might live:*
 - e. You have broken the law...and the wrath of God is coming for you...run to Christ! Flee to Christ so that you might live!
 - f. The Ark was built to save men from the just wrath and righteous judgment of God. Run to the ark before the door is closed.
2. That He might be the propitiation for our sins
 - a. John 3:1-16
 - b. Numbers 21:4-9
 - c. He came to pay our sin debt in full!
 - d. Look to Christ. He is the propitiation for our sins

e. Hebrews 2:17 *Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

III. God initiates love v10, 19

1. Oh how I love Jesus X 3, because He first loved me!
2. We are all on the road to Damascus as enemies of Christ, until He illuminates our world with the light of His presence
 - a. In that light we see His holiness
 - b. In that light we see our sinfulness
 - c. In that light we see His beauty and His love
 - d. And we love Him.
3. The African princess who went from spitting in her master's face to kissing his feet!

THE GOSPEL