

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. He follows this command with a powerful discourse on love, using some form of the word love roughly 27 times in this short text

We saw 3 things from this text last week. We will review them briefly and camp out on the fourth and final point of the text this morning.

I. God defines love v8

1. Love does not define God. God defines love!
2. Know God, then you will know love.

II. God displays love v9-10

By sending His son into the world for two reasons.

1. That we might live through Him
2. That He might be the propitiation for our sins

III. God initiates love v10, 19

1. We are all on the road to Damascus as enemies of Christ, until He illuminates our world with the light of His presence
2. In that light we see His holiness, our sinfulness and His beauty and love...and we love Him!

IV. We Demonstrate Love v11-12

This is how the world sees God! We display Him by love

1. Love is demonstrated by God for us in the sacrificing of His own son
2. Love is demonstrated by us for God in sacrificing
 - a. Genesis 22:1-14
 - b. Romans 12:1 *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*
3. Love is demonstrated by us for others by sacrificing:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 *Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails*

John gives a logical progression of how we know and understand this God of love in the following verses.

1. Receive the Spirit v13

- a. We receive the Spirit at salvation...all of Him!
- b. 1 John 3:24 *The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*
- c. 1 John 2:27 *As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.*

2. Confess Christ v14-15

- a. Romans 10:8-13
- b. Invite people to confess Christ

3. Experience His Love v16

- a. John 15:9 *Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.*
- b. Do you really believe that He loves You?
- c. Have You experienced His love?
- d. This isn't tv dinner religion here....or fast food religion. Sometimes you have to wait and tarry!

4. Have Confidence v17-18

- a. As we believe and experience His love in our lives, we are then able to love rightly
 1. Love God vertically
 2. Love others horizontally
- b. As we see His love flowing through us back to Him and out to others we have assurance that we are His!
 1. We have confidence in Him.
 2. Romans 8:1 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in*

Christ Jesus.

- c. The fear of judgement begins to evaporate in the face of His love for us and His love working through us.

This all culminates in you and I, upon seeing God's love demonstrated for us, demonstrating love, in a Biblical, godly way v19-21

Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group to try and get a better understanding.
3. What do we learn about God the Father....God the Son....and/or God the Holy Spirit from the main Scripture text that was used?
4. What do we learn about man from the main text?
5. Are there any commands to obey? Promises to believe? Sins to avoid in the main Scripture text?
6. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
7. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will _____"