

God Is Love

1 John 4:7-11

I. Introduction:

A. Context

- *Satan has many false teachers in the world. Satan's desire is twofold:*
 1. – To keep the lost blinded in their sin
 - a. Satan does not want lost men and women to believe on Jesus and be saved.
 2. – Harass those who are saved
 - a. Satan hates Jesus and therefore he hates all who belong to Jesus.
 - b. He wants to make them ineffective for kingdom of Christ, but they have practical victory over the attacks & deception of Satan by the power of the Holy Spirit.

B. **Love:** *There are two important things to remember about the love of God.*

1. – It is God's nature
 - a. God is love is why we're saved. God's love is motive for everything He has done.
2. – The Greatest Evidence
 - a. Living out the love of God is the greatest evidence of salvation.
 - b. Holy Spirit producing God's love in hearts & lives is positive proof they're in Christ.
 - c. We are never more like God than when we love others as God loves.

II. Evidence of the New Birth (1 John 4:7-8)

A. **Everyone who loves:** *Everyone who loves like God gives evidence of two things.*

1. – That we are born of God
 - a. Only way a person can love others unconditionally is to be a new creation in Christ.
 - b. Only way a person can love others sacrificially is through saving faith in Jesus.
 - c. Only way we can love others with God's love is for Holy Spirit to produce it in us.
 - d. Loving God & others w/ His kind of love is proof of salvation as evidenced by H. S.
2. – That we know God
 - a. This knowing God is more than just knowing about God.
 - b. Many people know about God for example the demons of hell know about God.
 - c. But when we know God by a personal saving faith in Jesus Christ, we know Him experientially which makes us new on the inside.
 - d. It is the new man, empowered by the Holy Spirit, that can love like God loves.

B. **He who does not love.**

1. He who does not have the Holy Spirit, producing the love of God in him , gives evidence that he really does not know God. **(1 John 4:8a)**
2. Application: It is possible for a true believer in Christ to fail to love as God loves.
3. We fail in our responsibility to love others just as we fail in many other areas of life.
4. When we fail to love God or others as we should, we are convicted, we confess our sin, & once again embrace the power of the Holy Spirit to love as we should.

C. **God is Love (1 John 4:8)**

1. "For God is love" is different from saying love is of God or comes from God.
2. This is a statement concerning the very nature of God. **(1 John 1:5)**
3. Light and love are not attributes of God; they are who He is.
 - (1) – God is light

- a. God's absolute purity, holiness, & righteousness are manifest in His nature as light
 - b. Light is the opposite of darkness which is always associated w/ evilness, foulness, deception, and gloom. God's nature as light shines into a world of sin & darkness.
 - c. God has shone the light of who He is in the world in the person of His Son, Jesus.
 - d. Jesus is the light that lights the heart of every man. (**John 1:9**)
 - e. Humanity: Of all creatures God created, mankind's only one created in His image
 - f. Mankind is the only creature who can recognize the light of God and respond to it.
- (2) – God is love: *That God is love explains much of what is difficult to understand.*
- (a) It explains creation
 - i. God created because He is love.
 - ii. All of physical creation was created for man to have and enjoy.
 - iii. Because God is love He wanted to create creature upon which to lavish love
 - (b) It explains free will
 - i. Unless love is a free choice, it's not love. God could've created world where people have no choice, but that would've made us nothing more than robots.
 - ii. God created us to be able to receive light & respond to His goodness w/ love.
 - (c) It explains redemption
 - i. God tolerates man's rebellion, hard heart & continual pursuit of wickedness.
 - ii. God continues to offer mercy & grace when man perpetually breaks His heart
 - iii. Because God is love He longs for us to be saved & to be restored to a right relationship with Him. God loves us & desires to have fellowship with us.

III. The Ultimate Demonstration of Love (1 John 4:9-10)

A. A Transcendent Expression of Love

1. Ultimate expression of God's love is giving of His only Son to die for us on the cross.
2. To "**live through Him**" means to have eternal life. He became the **propitiation** for sin
3. Word propitiation means satisfaction or payment. God declared sin would be punished.
4. God's holiness demands sin be punished. If God punished us for our sin, all humanity would go to hell. Because God is also love, He made a way for both to be satisfied.
5. God's justice was satisfied on the cross so we can enjoy the fullness of God's love.
6. There is not greater expression of love than the death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary.

B. Reciprocated Love

1. All human love is the result of God's love & is patterned after God's love.
2. God is the source of all true selfless love. We love God because He first loved us.

IV. Exhortation (1 John 4:11)

A. Since God is Love

1. The word "if" has the meaning of "since." There is a conditional clause here.
2. Since God is love, proven by giving of His only Son, we're obligated to love 1 another.
3. We are to love God, the brethren, & the lost selflessly. This kind of love has 3 results:
 - (1) – God is glorified.
 - a. If we love God selflessly, then we'll obey Him. God's glorified when He's obeyed.
 - (2) – Unity in the Body of Christ
 - a. Selfless love won't demand personal rights. Selfless love seeks the best for others, puts others ahead of self, builds up and edifies, & forgives all wrong.
 - (3) – Evangelism among the lost
 - a. When the lost world sees the love of God in us, they will be drawn to that love.
 - b. We can't effectively share the Gospel with people whom we don't genuinely love.