

Sermon Follow-up — July 26, 2020 — 1 John 4:7–21 – “God Is Love”

Sermon Recap: John writes a lot about love. The apostle John uses 4 different greek words for love. We only use one, and we use it for many different things! John teaches three things about love.

Love originates in the Trinity: (1 John 4:9-13) God is one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Love comes from God the father and is made manifest and displayed by the sending of the Son and the giving of the spirit. The Father sends the Son, then the Father and the Son send the Spirit.

Love is perfected in the Gospel: (1 John 4:14-18) This gives us confidence and dispels all fear for the day of judgement. Our debt is paid in full and we are declared not guilty. God’s perfect love through the Gospel casts out fear.

Love is commanded in the Church: (1 John 4:19-21) We are to love one another because we are so greatly loved in the gospel. So how do we love one another? The New Testament has 53 commands on how to treat one another in love.

How can we have a reputation as a church that not only is generous and Biblical, but a reputation as a church that truly loves one another? It starts with receiving God's love. It continues with loving Jesus because He first loved us. Then it continues with each of loving at least one other person.

Application Questions

How do you apply this command of loving others, and consider loving someone who might not love you back? Or who might be different from you?

Can you identify any fears that you are experiencing? How can God's perfect love turn those fears into trusting Him?

Think about all the ways you can that demonstrate God's love for you and spend some time thanking Him for His gracious love.

Take a moment to consider how your love for others or lack of love for others is a reflection of God's love for you. As you do, remember that your ability to love them depends on you first receiving God's love for you. Spend some time reflecting on just how the Father has loved you.

The sermon mentioned that everyone who has received God's love in Jesus has no reason to fear judgment. However, those who have not received Him have reason to fear. If you are not sure you have received Jesus and the Holy Spirit, please reach out to one of the pastors. We'd love to walk you through that experience.