



“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” (I John 4:7-12 - NIV)

Prayer: Father of Lights, every good and perfect gift comes from You. Enable me to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that I may always make my petitions according to Your gracious will; through Your Son, Jesus Christ my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service With L.S. – pg. 15

- Greeting by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 167** Sung by the Congregation

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Acts 11:19-30

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 98 (C.W. pg. 103 – Sung by the congregation)

Second Lesson – I John 4:1-12-Test the Spirits-God’s Love

Gospel Lesson – John 15:9-17-Chosen by Jesus – Love All

Nicene Creed by the Congregation: (Liturgy pg. 18)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 505** sung by the Congregation

Sermon Text: I John 4:7-12

Sermon Theme: What Does God’s Love Look Like?

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer

Communion Liturgy (Liturgy - pg. 21)

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy – Liturgy pg. 22)

Words of Institution (Liturgy pg. 23)

Agnus Dei (O Christ Lamb of God – Lit. pg. 23)

RECEPTION of Christ’s Body & Blood which are Really Present, In / With and Under the Bread and the Wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Communion Hymn **C.W. 312 vss. 1, 5-8** sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 490** sung by the Congregation.

SERMON TEXT: I John 4:7-12

Vs. 7 - Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Vs. 8 - Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Vs. 9 - This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

Vs. 10 - This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Vs. 11 - Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Vs. 12 - No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

GREETING: If we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him ...in the same way count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 6:8-9, 11)

How many people do you love?

Have you experienced the death of someone whom you love?

Father – Mother? Spouse? Brother – Sister? Aunt – Uncle?

Niece – Nephew? Cousin – Close Friend – Neighbor – Fellow Member of the Congregation?

When someone dies who you love and care about, how does it make you feel?

Did you cry?

Have you been able to get over the loss of the loved one, or does it linger on regardless of how long ago it took place?

As I continue to speak of Love for others, what is the definition of LOVE?

For those who have attended a wedding you may have heard the familiar passage from the Word of our Lord: **“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always perseveres. Love never fails.”**

(I Corinthians 13:4-8a-NIV)

Another definition of love is clearly given earlier in the Book of *First* John 3:16: **“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.”**

When you love someone, would you send them or want them to go into a situation where they would be injured, hurt or hated and killed? No of course not!

Yet, that is exactly what God did when He sent His One and Only Son Jesus into this world. (Matt. 17:23, Mk. 9:31, Lk. 22:2, Jn. 5:28)

After the Lord Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, God the Father spoke from heaven and said: “**This is My Son, Whom I love / My Beloved; with Him I am well pleased.**” (Matt. 3:17)

This was repeated by God the Father on the Mount of Transfiguration. (Matt. 17:5; See also - Mk. 1:11; Lk. 9:35; II Peter 1:17)

God the Father sent His Son Jesus into this world for one set purpose.

That purpose was - to first live the perfect life that no other human being is able to live, and then to take the sin of mankind upon Himself on the cross of Calvary.

John 3:17 KJV - “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

II Corinthians 5:21 NIV – “God made Him Who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

God’s Love for us - extended past - His love for His Only Begotten Son – TO US.

Vs. 10 - **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning - AT- ONE - sacrifice for our sins.**

Sometimes when we read through Scripture, we run across words that we might struggle with understanding what it means.

One of those words might be ATONE.

When God Created Adam and Eve and the entire Universe, everything was perfect, there was no sin in the world, in the universe.

Satan (once a good angel created by God, since angels are included in all things invisible – Col. 1:17) rebelled against God (Rev. 12:7-9). Satan then led Adam and Eve into sin (Gen. 3:1-34) and then the perfect relationship which existed between God and Mankind was broken. Reconciliation needed to take place, and so God sent His Son Jesus to once again bring Mankind and God back together again, that is to make us AT-ONE with God.

This Atonement happened because of and in Christ Jesus alone.

Because of what Jesus Christ did for us on the Cross of Calvary, our sins are forgiven, and we can look forward to spending eternity in heaven where there is no more sin, or death or sorrow or crying. (Rev. 21:1-5).

And by God’s grace we will have those new glorified bodies. (Philip. 3:20-21).

Between these two statements, - which statement brings more comfort?

“I Love God!” OR “God Loves me!”

God’s love is always constant whereas our love can vary.

Without God the Holy Spirit living in us, and without seeing True Love as demonstrated by God, we would not even know what Love Is. As we learn in verse 7 & 19 of I John chapter 4 -

Vs. 7 - Dear friends, love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Vs. 19 – “We love because he first loved us.”

This Love of God in us becomes evident as we learn in:

Vs. 11 - Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

(Even our enemies and those who persecute us: Matt. 5:44 & Lk. 6:27)

All those loved ones who died as believers in Christ Jesus - they are already with the Lord forever, waiting for us.

May the Lord God give you continued strength each day in this world with its troubles, until we see our Risen Savior face to face with our own eyes. (Job 19:25-27), AMEN

THEME: What Does God’s Love Look Like?