

# Manifesting God's love

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## Introduction

- Communion Sunday - we reflect on the love God has shown us
- Preached quite often - but again today I want to zero in on this central truth
- Find a bible, and follow along as I read from 1 John 4
- **1 John 4:7-21** (ESV) (7) *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (8) Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (9) In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. (10) In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (12) No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (13) By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (14) And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. (15) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. (16) So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (17) By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (19) We love because he first loved us. (20) If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. (21) And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*
- I want to ask / answer a few simple questions from this text

## How do I know God loves me?

- See **1 John 4:9-10** (ESV) (9) *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. (10) In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

## The cross is the demonstration of God's love

- Point of this passage - God has shown his love
- Took His only Son

## Not based on us

- v10 - *not that we have loved God*
- Such an amazing truth
- We know **Rom 5:8** (ESV) (8) *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

## Complete payment

- Propitiation - payment
- Complete, nothing lacking
- All my sins have been forgiven
- He's given me life... *so that we might live through him*

## My response should be to love

- See **1 John 4:7** (ESV) (7) *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*
- See **1 John 4:11** (ESV) (11) *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*
- We have been loved, we must love

## But how?

- Wedding yesterday, 1 Cor. 13:4-8
- True biblical love his hard... imporsible
- **Note:** Struggled with the order of these

## Know His love

- See **1 John 4:19** (ESV) (19) *We love because he first loved us.*
- We cannot love until we know he loves us
- Biggest struggle for believers
- See **1 John 4:16-17** (ESV) (16) *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (17) By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.*
- When we know that God loves us - when we believe that God loves us, we can begin to

love

- **Note:** God is love

### Be born again through his love

- See **1 John 4:7-8** (ESV) (7) *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (8) Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*
- God is love
- God gives love!
- See **1 John 4:13** (ESV) (13) *By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.*
- **Note:** context - testing the Spirit
- The evidence of God's work in us - is that we're loving one another
- **Bottom line:** Love is impossible apart from Christ in us... and if Christ is in us, we will love!

### When we love then...

#### God's presence is manifest in us

- See **1 John 4:12** (ESV) (12) *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*
- When we practice loving one another - God's presence is revealed, abiding in us
- See **John 13:35** (ESV) (35) *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

#### We have confidence on judgment day

- Here's the bottom line - we'll be judged by our love
- See **1 John 4:18** (ESV) (18) *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.*
- Because we've been commanded to love **1 John 4:21** (ESV) (21) *And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*
- See **1 John 4:8** (ESV) (8) *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*
- See **1 John 4:20** (ESV) (20) *If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.*
- See all the commands re: love
  - **John 13:34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I

have loved you, you also are to love one another.

- **John 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- **John 14:21** Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."
- **John 15:10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
- **John 15:12** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
- **John 15:14** You are my friends if you do what I command you.
- **John 15:17** These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

## Closing

- How well are we loving

## Communion

**1 Cor 11:23-26** (ESV) (23) *For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*