

## The Love Of God

### - I John 4:7-16

- **This morning I want to talk about a subject that affects each and everyone of us. It's the subject of Love.**
  - This is a weekend where we choose to show those closest to us how much we love them by buying cards, flowers, and other gifts.
  - By the way, apparently Valentine's Day is not just for men & women, it is also for pets. It's estimated that Americans will spend over \$700M again this year on their pets for Valentine's Day.
- **Though we will give mention and spend a little time talking about "our love", we will spend the majority of our time talking about the Love of God.**
- **There is nothing like the love of God! The Love of God is the most overwhelming thing I have ever encountered in my life. It is the greatest thing God ever did for any of us!**
  - I mean think about it, the very fact that He loves us is the ONLY reason that He does what He does in our life.
    - Why has God blessed us with our families? Because He loves us.
    - Why has God blessed us with life & our health? Because He loves us.
    - Why has He blessed us with good Christian friends?
    - A great church to come to?
    - The ability to earn a living?
    - Why did He choose to save us from our sins? He has done and continues to do these things simply b/c of His love for us.
  - You say, "Well Pastor, there are some that don't have good health today." That is true, and yet b/c of His great love He sustains them & gives them the grace to go through any trial in their life. What an awesome God we serve!
- **We try our best to understand the love of God and explain it to others, but the truth is, we just can't b/c all we have to compare it to is our frail, polluted definition of love which is so far separated from God's perfect love.**
  - In our own aspect or view of love, we see certain characteristics that are grossly different from the love that God has for us:
    - Our love is biased.
      - We love or care for those whom we share like similarities or similar life styles.
      - We pick and choose who we want to love.
    - Our love is selfish.
      - Whether we choose to love someone or not is clearly affected by what they can do or give to us.
      - Our love is many times about what we can get out of it, not necessarily about what we can show to someone else.
    - Our love is not consistent.
      - Our love for someone today is one word or one action from changing our love for them tomorrow.
      - When we talk about our love for others, you know what many times we are referring to? We are referring to a feeling that we have for them.

- If someone does wrong against us, whether through word or action, our feelings change don't they?
- **Our definition of love many times revolves around our feelings while God's love is more about a choice, He chose to love us.**
- **When you talk about love and you talk about God, these are not 2 separate things, according to God's Word they are the same.**
  - As a matter of fact there are 2 times in I John 4: where the Bible says specifically that "God is love."
    - I John 4:8 – "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."
    - I John 4:16 – "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."
  - Over in the Gospel of John, there are numerous references as to God and His love for us, of course all centered around 3:16.
- **There are a few things that I know for sure according to this passage that I want to share with you this morning:**

## **I. God's Love Is Unchanging**

### **a. Consistent**

- i. Thank God we serve One who loves us consistently each and every day.
- ii. I dare say that if there is one area of our life where we find ourselves struggling when it comes to our love for others, it would have to be our consistency in showing it.
  1. When we have a bad day, we don't always convey our love to others as clearly and openly as we should.
  2. When we are disappointed or frustrated, it is easy for us to allow our attitude to dictate our affection isn't it?
- iii. But God and His love for us is completely different.
  1. He loves us whether we are having a good day or a bad day.
  2. He loves us whether we get it all right or not.
  3. God's love is consistent and dependable and unfortunately taken for granted far too often in our life.

### **b. Unselfish**

- i. We often times hoard our love and choose not to love certain people simply b/c they have nothing to offer us.
- ii. Romans 2:4 – "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"
  1. If you are saved this morning, do you know how you were able to be saved? Because of God's love for you & Him reaching out to you.
  2. Do you know how your sins can be washed away and forgiven? Only b/c of God's grace and His love for you.
  3. Do you know how we can stand before God and claim our redemption? It is only through the blood of Jesus Christ and His great love for us.
- iii. I John 4:19 – "We love him, because he first loved us."
  1. When is the last time you just chose to love someone?
    - a. Not b/c of their goodness.
    - b. Not b/c of their financial position.

- c. Not b/c of what they could do for you.
    - d. Not even b/c you felt sorry for them.
    - e. Instead you just chose to love them and care for them b/c you wanted to.
  - 2. Chances are, those times are few in each of our lives, but even in those times, could you imagine giving of your own life for that person?
  - 3. Even worse, take this same person that you chose to love. Could you imagine giving the life of one of your children for them?
- iv. God loves us so much that He loved us:
  - 1. When we were unlovable.
  - 2. Though we had NOTHING to offer Him.
  - 3. Even though we did NOT deserve it, GOD STILL CHOSE TO LOVE YOU AND I!

## **II. God's Love Is Unending**

### **a. It Will Never Run Out**

- i. Many have stated, "Oh, I would love to come to Jesus, but my life is just too sinful. You don't know the things I have done. His love could never reach me."
- ii. Friend, if you are here this morning and that is your very thoughts at this moment, I will tell you that though you may be a wretched sinner, perhaps your life has been devastated by sin and you have suffered many consequences b/c of your sin and though you may even be deep in sin at this moment in your life, I will tell you that there is one thing that is even deeper, and that is the love of Christ for your soul.
  - 1. Romans 8:35-39 - nothing can separate us from the love of God.

### **b. It Will Always Be**

- i. Jeremiah 31:3 – "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."
- ii. How long is everlasting? I don't know that I can define it good enough for you, but I will tell you this:
  - 1. It will be there for as long as we need it.
  - 2. It will be there when other loves have come and gone.
  - 3. It will be there when we feel as though no one else cares.
  - 4. It will be there even when we are not expecting it.
  - 5. It will be there even when we sin.
  - 6. God's love will be FOREVER!

## **III. God's Love Is Unmatched**

### **a. Through His Life**

- i. He showed His love towards others by teaching them.
- ii. Spending time with them.
- iii. Healing their sicknesses.
- iv. Feeding them.
- v. Serving them.
- vi. Helping them through difficult times in their life.
  - 1. No one could ever show love like Christ showed. He lived to serve others while He was here on this earth.

2. Mark 10:45 – “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

**b. Through His Death**

- i. II Corinthians 5:21 – “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
  1. It wasn’t the Roman officials that took Him to the cross, nor was it the mob of people that day; it was His love for mankind that took Him to the cross.
- ii. I John 4:9 – “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”
- iii. Romans 5:8 – “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
- iv. Revelation 1:5 – “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”
- v. Friend, you may question a lot of people and there love for you, but you will NEVER have to wonder if God loves you. He gave of His Son for you!