

SERIES: MISSION 2022
SERMON: YOU ARE LOVED
1-16-22

OPENER AND REVIEW:

Agape is in this passage of scripture 27 times.....

1 John 4:7-21. Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.

¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. ¹⁷ And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

¹⁸ Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. ¹⁹ We love each other because he loved us first.

²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

1. YOU HAVE AN INSATIABLE NEED TO BE LOVED

We all desire love and we all need love. We all desire to be loved.

Why?

ILLUSTRATION:

> Why am I climbing in this window to see this girl at 3am in the morning when I know her father may kill me? Because, “I love her”!

> What is driving me to spend all this money to buy this gift to give to this person?

> What causes me to keep wanting this person who is embarrassed to be with me in public? They keep calling me late at night to come and see them and I go because I have this overwhelming need to be loved.

THE REASON HAVE YOU AN OVERWHELMING NEED TO BE LOVED IS BECAUSE YOU WERE CREATED FROM LOVE.

Genesis 1:26 Let us make man in our image.

**WE WERE CREATED IN THE ESSENCE OF GOD
AND GOD IS LOVE.**

LOVE IS HIS CORE INGREDIENT.

ILLUSTRATION:

Chik-Fil-A lemonade. I love it. Lemonade is made from a lemon.
The core ingredient of lemonade is the lemon.

**SO YOU ARE FULL OF LOVE.
GOD TOOK THE BEST PART OF HIM AND PUT IT IN YOU.**

**THAT'S WHY YOU LONG FOR IT. THAT'S WHY YOU NEED IT. THAT'S WHAT
EVERY BOOK IS ABOUT.
THAT IS WHAT EVERY SONG THAT IS SUNG IS ABOUT.
THAT IS WHAT EVERYONE SEARCHES FOR.**

**THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE AN INSATIABLE NEED FOR LOVE BECAUSE YOU
WERE CREATED FROM IT.**

"Let us make"

You were created to have relationship just like God. God does not exist alone. He exists in fellowship. You need to be around people other than yourself. We exclude ourselves because we don't realize that we were created to love and be loved and live within the context of love. We are supposed to function at our best - We are to function in love.

But, some of us are guarded. Some of us have church hurt. Many times our relationship with others is disfigured because of our understanding of God's love. Because we say, I can't trust you so there is no way I can trust God.

**THAT IS WHAT ALL OF THIS IS ABOUT - LOVE.
IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU DOING THE RIGHT THING.
IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU DOING WHAT IS BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY.
IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU DOING BETTER.**

NONE OF THOSE THINGS ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO MOTIVATE YOU TO SERVE GOD.

**LOVE MUST BE YOUR MOTIVATOR.
UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU AND YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO TRULY BE FREE.**

2. GOD'S LOVE REMOVES OUR FEAR

1 John 4:18-19 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

**ALL LOVE HAS TO HAVE A RECIPIENT.
YOU DON'T JUST LOVE. THERE HAS TO BE A TARGET.
WE ARE THE TARGET OF GOD'S LOVE.**

When he created us he said, I'm going to love them forever! We don't live like that, but we live like we have a target on our back.

Matthew 18:12-13 If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? ¹³ And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn't wander away!

ILLUSTRATION:

My brother was always getting lost. We stopped everything. When parents leave a child. They leave the other kids and stop everything to find the one. Parents feel a sense of urgency. They call everyone and say, have you seen him? God says, "y'all just keep praising. Just keep praying. I'm going to find the one that is lost."

1 John 4: 9-10 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

**GOD DOESN'T SAY I'LL LOVE YOU AFTER YOU GET RIGHT.
AFTER YOU CLEAN UP.
AFTER YOU GET THINGS FIXED.
AFTER YOU STOP SINNING.
GOD SAYS I'LL LEAVE THE 99 AND GO AFTER THE ONE.**

UNTIL WE REALIZE GOD'S GREAT LOVE FOR US WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO GIVE LOVE.

3. LOVE IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO VALUE

THEY ARE INSEPARABLE. WHEN SOMEONE TRULY LOVES YOU THEY VALUE YOU.

ILLUSTRATION:

Some of you love your car and you clean it and polish it and buy parts for it. Spend hours working on it. But when you love something you value it. Some of you love your shoes and you wipe them down with expensive shoe cleaners and store them in nice containers. Some of you love your children and you value them.

Interesting Note:

People who study the psychology of children say that when children are valued at a young age, when they are told they are wonderful, their beautiful, they are loved, that

- 1)they have the ability to step out and try things that may present danger**
- 2)They have the ability to handle conflict and struggles easier**
- 3)They are able to adapt to other environments easier.**
- 4) They are able to problem solve in hard situations.**

EVERY PERSON IS CREATED BY GOD TO BE LOVED, BECAUSE EVERY PERSON NEEDS TO BE VALUED.

4. YOUR REVELATION OF YOUR VALUE IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO YOUR FAITH

WHEN WE DON'T FEEL LOVED WE TRY TO FIND VALUE.

OUR HUMAN NATURE WILL PUT US IN POSITIONS TO TRY TO TAKE VALUE WHEN WE DON'T FEEL THAT WE ARE GETTING VALUED.

All of us have done things to try to get someone to value us that was outside of our character.

ILLUSTRATION:

Ladies will dress a certain way. But you wanted someone to look at you and place value on you even if you knew it was not something that was real. Because you will take it even if it is counterfeit.

Guys in the gym every day. Sometimes a lot of those guys were the nerds that no one looked at or took seriously and they have found a way to make themselves relevant. I have found a way to place value on me.

We see that and we say, someone didn't value them . Somewhere along the way their perception of love they have was perverted and they lost value.

**THE REASON MANY OF US DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO OVERCOME FEAR
AND STEP OUT IN FAITH,
TO PROBLEM SOLVE AND INTERACT WITH PEOPLE,
TO MOVE FROM WHERE WE ARE AT TO
WHERE GOD WANTS TO TAKE US,
IS BECAUSE WE DON'T TRULY UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE LOVED BY GOD.**

Because we don't know it

- > We are afraid to move forward,
- > We are afraid to leave the past,
- > We are afraid to begin to step out, afraid to make a mistake.
- > We are afraid to walk away from things because we think that is the best that God will give us.

**WHEN YOU TRULY KNOW YOU ARE VALUED BY GOD
YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE.
FEAR HAS TO LEAVE BECAUSE YOU ARE VALUED BY GOD.**

**YOU ARE LOVED BY GOD NO MATTER WHAT YOU DID.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU BROKE.
EVEN IF IT CAN'T BE FIXED. GOD STILL LOVES YOU.**

**UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU, YOU
LIVE LIFE AT A MEDIOCRE
LEVEL TRYING TO DEFEND YOURSELF, KEEP
YOURSELF GUARDED, KEEP YOURSELF LIFTED UP.**

Ephesians 3:16-19 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

**GOD'S LOVE WILL KEEP YOU STRONG.
JUST LIKE THE ROOTS OF A TREE BLOWN IN THE WIND.
THE DEEPER YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S LOVE THE STRONGER YOU STAND.**

Hebrews 11:6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Romans 8:35-39 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**YOU ARE GOD'S OBSESSION.
YOU ARE THE THING THAT GOD WAKES UP THINKING ABOUT.
YOU ARE THE REASON GOD CREATED EVERYTHING THAT WE SEE IN THIS
WORLD. ALL FOR YOU AND YOUR ENJOYMENT.
HE IS OBSESSED WITH YOU.**

**WE SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO DO ANYTHING BECAUSE GOD HAS YOUR
BACK.**

**WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REST IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM IN PEACE NO
MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCE.**