



1 John 4:1-12 - Overcome by Love.

ADAM LONG

| Week of March 31st, 2019

SERMON OVERVIEW // First John is not the easiest book to preach through. At first glance it can seem very repetitive. At times it feels as though John is running in circles. The more time we spend in First John the more we come to realize his writing is not circular but moving forward in a spiraling trajectory. Again and again it returns to a point where it has been before and yet by bringing in a new element moves on a step further.

SERMON TEXT // 1 John 4:1-12 English Standard Version

After John, again, addresses the false prophets and our need to be on the look out he urges the church to remember who they are and whose they are (v.1-6). He says we have **overcome** the false prophets in our abiding in the Lord. If we have overcome anything it is because our God has overcome everything. In Christ we are conquerors who belong to a Conqueror. **For He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.** That is the good news of the Gospel! The truth is, in Christ we have been **overcome by love**. John shows us this truth in three ways:

- [1] In Who God Is: **God is Love.** (v.7-8)
- [2] In What God Has Done: **God sent Jesus.** (v.9-10)
- [3] In What God is Doing: **God abides in Us.** (v.11-12)

God is love means love is from God, love is God's nature, and love originates with God Himself. Love does not define God - God defines love. This means that God continually give of Himself to others and seeks their best. Those in relationship with God are both **born in God** and **know God** personally. The Holy Spirit enables a believer to love radically different than an unbeliever.

God sent Jesus for the purposes of life and death. God Himself, was **made manifest** when Jesus came to earth. Love is God's signature - Jesus is His fingerprint. (Hebrews 1:1-4) God took the initiative in loving us first. Jesus was sent once to live among us and then was sent to the cross to be our **propitiation** - our atoning sacrifice. The cross was first and foremost for God's glory. The outpouring of that glory results in our freedom!

God abides in us through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). God is love. We know God, therefore we should love. When we talk about loving all people we are not saying we must abandon all Biblical truth in order to accept sinful lifestyles, behaviors, and choices in peoples lives. God is abiding in us the way He remained in the Tabernacle among the Israelites of the Old Testament. The presence of God should radiate from within us because the Spirit of God is **abiding** in us.

For He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. We have been **overcome by love**.



Discussion Questions - Overcome by Love.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

| Week of March 31st, 2019

Question 1

What was something you wrote down or a truth that resonated with you from listening to the sermon, looking at the overview, or even in reading this particular text in 1st John 4?

Question 2

John talks about love for the third time in his letter to the church here in our text. **How would you explain "love" to a child in a way they could understand? Would you say the love you show in your life to the people you encounter resembles that definition of love?** Briefly share your simple explanation and your thoughts on why your life resembles that love or not.

Question 3

One of the most powerful verses in the entire letter to the church here is found in verse four: **Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. How does that verse shape the foundation of your life? How do you plan to allow it to shape your life even further?** Spend some time briefly sharing some personal thoughts about this sweet truth found in the Bible.

Question 4

John says Jesus was sent as our **propitiation**. What is your personal understanding of the truth lying within that statement? **How would you explain that statement to a group of your peers?** Lastly, spend some time discussing: **What does this tell us about God? About sin? About man?** Spend some time sharing your thoughts and discuss how this big theological truth can have a daily effect on our day to day walks.

Question 5

The truth that God is abiding in us is reason for us to show love to one another. **How has God's love been demonstrated to you this week by another Christian?** Spend time encouraging the group by sharing a story of love from your life recently. Allow this to stir up right affections in us this week to do the same for someone else.