



“Cataclysmic Love”

1 John 4:7-12

Perfect Love: The Book of 1 John

1 John 4:7-12 – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loves us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

Introduction:

“The world will never starve for want of wonders, but only for want of wonder.”

- G.K. Chesterton

Cataclysmic: a momentous and violent event marked by overwhelming upheaval and demolition; an event that brings great change.

1 John 4:7 – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

Matthew 7:18 – “A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.”

1 John 4:8 – “The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

1.) Love gives us a metric for success.

1 John 4:9 – “By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.”

2.) Love is death-changing.

Ephesians 2:1 – “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...”

John 5:24 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

1 John 4:10 – “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Propitiation: the act of gaining or regaining the favor or goodwill of someone.

3.) Love turned fury into favor.

1 Jn 4:11 – “Beloved, if God so loves us, we also ought to love one another.”

4.) Love demands action.

1 John 3:18 – “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth.”

“The way that we love everyone around us is the best way to explain what Easter is all about.” - Bob Goff

1 John 4:12 – “No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

Exodus 33:20 – “But he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.”

“We can’t fall any further if we can’t feel ordinary love. And we can’t reach any higher if we can’t deal with ordinary love.”- Paul David Hewson (Bono)

5.) Love for others proves we’ve experienced God’s love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did you find new, helpful, or confusing about today’s message?
2. Does familiarity cause you to appreciate something more or less?
 - a. What things once amazed you that no longer do?
 - b. What things amaze you more today than yesterday?
3. In what ways did God’s love bring upheaval and change to your life?
4. Do you think others truly see the love of God in and through you?
5. How can you make God’s love even more apparent to those around you?