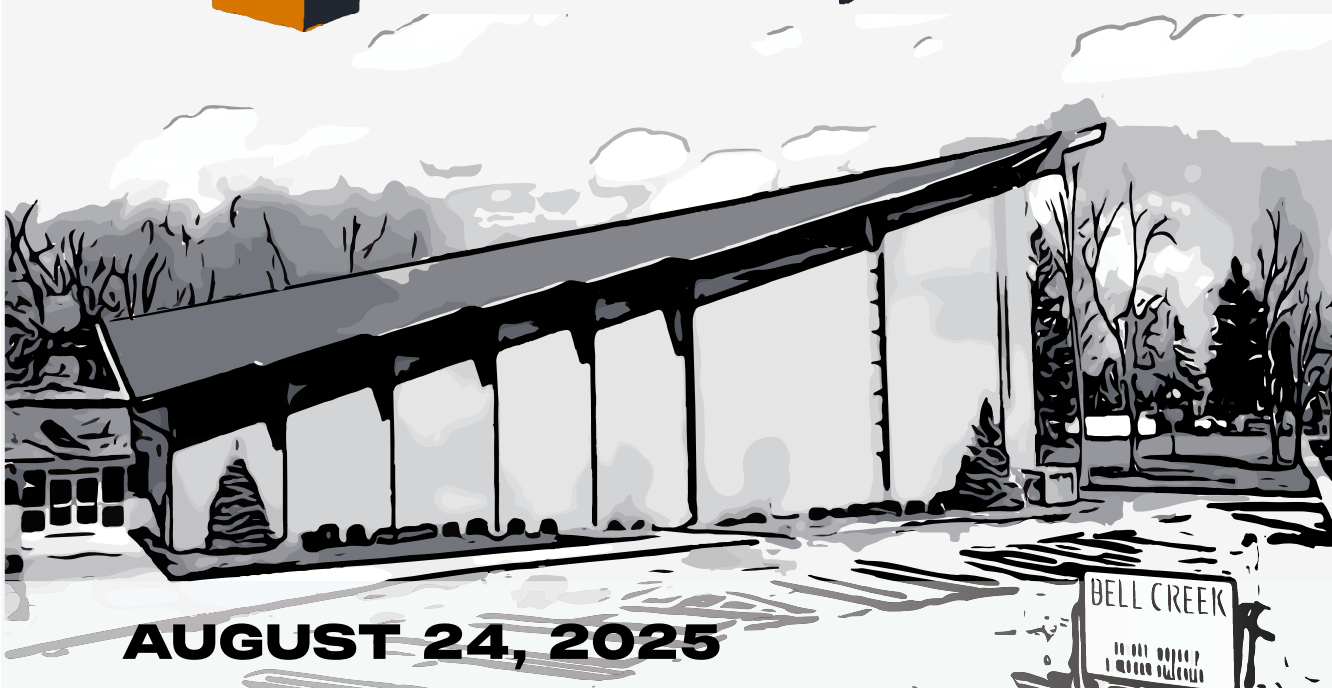


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



AUGUST 24, 2025

LOVE IS FROM GOD

1 JOHN 4:7-14

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

LOVE IS FROM GOD

1 JOHN 4:7–14

God is Love

We Also Ought to Love One Another

Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

FOR NEXT WEEK

For Next Week, read the entire book of 1 John!
It will only take you about 15 minutes!

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

AUGUST 24: JEREMIAH 51-52
AUGUST 25: LAMENTATIONS 1:1-3:36
AUGUST 26: LAMENTATIONS 3:37-5:22
AUGUST 27: EZEKIEL 1-4
AUGUST 28: EZEKIEL 5-8
AUGUST 29: EZEKIEL 9-12
AUGUST 30: EZEKIEL 13-15

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

AWANA REGISTRATION

Awana begins Wednesday, September 3, and will meet every Wednesday from September-May from 6:30-7:45 PM. If your child would like to join, you can register at www.bellcreek.org. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Awana Director, Gretchen Schick (734-751-0006 or awana@bellcreek.org).

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

There is an exceptional opportunity for several men to attend a Bible Study starting September 11 called The Good Fight-God's Plan for Every Man. It was developed to provide men hope and healing through a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. We will meet every Thursday from 6:30-8:30 PM for 11 weeks. To register, please contact Don Henderson (don.h@healinghearts.org) or Ron Peavler (Ron.p@healinghearts.org).

BAPTISM

Our next Baptism opportunity will be on Sunday, September 28. If you are interested in being baptized as a believer, please contact Pastor Adam (adam@bellcreek.org).

ART OF MARRIAGE CLASS

Mike & Mary King and Alex & Elyse Quint will be leading a 3-day Marriage Class in November. The class will consist of a series of videos, work together as a couple, and group discussions. This is the same series as the class we hosted in May, so if you already did the class, you do not need to repeat it. The class will meet on the following dates: Friday, November 14, 6:30-9:00 PM; Saturday, November 15, 6:30-9:00 PM; Sunday, November 16, 6:30-9:00 PM.

To register for the class, you can do so by visiting www.bellcreek.org. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org) or Elyse Quint (elyse@bellcreek.org).

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS

AFTER WORSHIP

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sermon 08.24.2025

1 John 4:7-14

Sermon Title: Love is from God

1. God is Love

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1 John 4:7–8, ESV)

What is love? (A simple definition and another one from John Piper):

Love seeks the good of others (simple definition).

Love is the overflow of joy in God that gladly meets the needs of others.

Love is a self-giving commitment, flowing from joy in God, that gladly sacrifices to seek another’s ultimate good by drawing them into seeing and savoring Him for their everlasting joy in Christ.

Let’s compare Christianity and Islam’s understanding of God’s love:

Christianity (Biblical): “God is love.” (1 John 4:8)

Love is described as God’s very essence — it’s not merely something God does, but something He is in His nature.

Love is eternal within the Trinity — the Father has loved the Son from all eternity (John 17:24).

As high as the heavens are above the earth...” (Psalm 103:11) uses boundless imagery to indicate love that transcends creation.

God’s love is unconditional in the sense that He loves sinners even while they are in rebellion (Romans 5:8).

Islam (Qur’anic): The Qur’an does not say “God is love”.

Love (maḥabba, ḥubb) is one of God’s actions, not His essence.

Not eternal in exercise toward creation, Love is shown toward creatures only after they exist and meet certain criteria.

God’s love is selective and conditional — shown toward certain people and withheld from others.

God is love because God is three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have always, and will always love one another.

“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. 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.” (1 John 4:9–10, ESV)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, ESV)

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—” (Ephesians 2:4–5, ESV)

Do you know the love God has for you?

We can’t survive without love. And God is an overflowing fountain of love. His love can flow into the driest of hearts. He joyfully and gladly pursues you with His love. In fact, He is so determined to show you His Love that He has sent His only Son to show you who He is, and to save you. He has made a commitment, a promise, that anyone - even those who have ignored Him, rejected Him, or broken every single one of His commands is welcome home if they will come to Him and simply admit what they are and ask for forgiveness. God wants your ultimate good. He wants to draw you to Himself, through His Son Jesus, so you can see and know, and delight in Him for your everlasting joy in Christ. Will you let Him love you?

2. We Also Ought to Love One Another

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:11, ESV)

“No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.” (1 John 4:12–13, ESV)

“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” (1 John 4:14–15, ESV)

“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.” (1 John 4:16, ESV)

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How Jesus Reveals That God Loves Us

1. His Person: God With Us

John 1:14 – “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Matthew 1:23 – “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Jesus’ incarnation shows God’s desire to dwell with His people, not from afar but in personal nearness and relationship.

2. His Life: His Perfect Obedience and Righteousness for Us

Hebrews 4:15 – "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Romans 5:19 – "For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."

Jesus lived the life we could not live—sinless and obedient—to become our righteousness, a gift of love from God.

3. His Teaching: Revealing the Father's Heart

John 15:9–10 – "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love..."

John 17:26 – "I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Jesus taught that love flows from the Father, through the Son, and into His people—He made the Father's love known.

4. His Care for People: Compassion and Mercy

Matthew 9:36 – "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Luke 7:13–15 – "And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' Then he came up and touched the bier... And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother."

His miracles and compassion for the broken, sick, and outcast reveal the tender heart of God toward sinners and sufferers.

5. His Miracles: Tangible Expressions of God's Love

Matthew 14:14 – "When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick."

John 2:11 – "This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him."

John 11:35–36 – "Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'"

Jesus' miracles were not only demonstrations of divine power but acts of divine compassion—healing the sick, feeding the hungry, raising the dead, and restoring the broken to show God's heart of mercy and love.

6. His Death: The Ultimate Display of God's Love

Romans 5:8 – "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

John 15:13 – "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

Jesus' death on the cross is the supreme proof of God's love for sinners: substitutionary, sacrificial, and freely given.

7. His Burial: Entering Our Death and Shame

Isaiah 53:9 – "And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth."

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 – "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried..."

His burial affirms the reality of His death and His full identification with our mortality—He went to the grave in our place.

8. His Resurrection: Triumph and Life for All Who Believe

John 11:25–26 – "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.'"

1 Peter 1:3 – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

The resurrection of Jesus proves that God's love conquers death, secures our hope, and offers new life.

9. His Return: Love Brought to Fulfillment

John 14:3 – "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

Revelation 21:3–4 – "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more..."

The return of Christ is the culmination of God's redemptive love—bringing His people into the fullness of eternal fellowship, joy, and peace in His presence forever.

10. All the Promises of God Are 'Yes' in Christ

2 Corinthians 1:20 – "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory."

This verse assures us that every promise God has made—whether for forgiveness, redemption, eternal life, or His unfailing presence—is confirmed and fulfilled in Jesus Christ. In Him, we see not only the demonstration of God's love, but also the guarantee of all His gracious purposes for us.

11. His Love for Enemies: Transforming Us to Love Likewise

Matthew 5:43–44 – "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Luke 23:34 – "And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"

Romans 5:10 – "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."

Jesus loved even those who hated Him. His love is not limited to friends or followers—it reaches to enemies, offenders, and the unworthy. He calls us to the same kind of radical love, enabled by His Spirit in us. This transforming love is one of the clearest evidences that we belong to Him.

"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." (1 John 4:16, ESV)

As those who know Jesus, we need a greater experience of His love for us, and we must let that love overflow in the way we love others.

The person and work of Jesus Christ—His coming, living, teaching, compassion, miracles, love for enemies, dying, burial, resurrection, and return—are the clearest, most complete revelation of God's love for us. Do you see this? Do you see His love for you? Every act of Christ is an expression of the Father's eternal love made visible and tangible, securing for us every promise and preparing us for an eternal experience of His love forever—and transforming us to become loving people who reflect His heart.

3. Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

"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." (1 John 4:17, ESV)

"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." (1 John 4:18, ESV)

The perfect love of God frees me from fear that I'm not right with God, from fear that I'm not forgiven, from fear that I am condemned, from fear of Satan and his awful strength, from fear that death will claim me, and from fear that hell will forever hold me. It frees us to stand confidently before God, expectantly looking for His love, because we are His forgiven, beloved children.

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God," (Romans 8:15–16, ESV)

Where is the love of God when everything comes apart?

If things have come apart because you've made bad choices, and you're suffering in a prison of your own design, I have good news for you. God loves you, and He sent Jesus to save you and be with you now and forever. You might have to suffer some consequences for your bad choices, BUT you are forgiven and God promises, because He loves you, that He will work even this for good in your life.

If things have come apart and you have no idea why – if hardship, sickness, disease, grief, sorrows, or even death have surrounded you, I say, with great humility, as a messenger of the Most High,

that God loves you. This is not my message to you, it's His. I don't know why this has happened to you, I don't know why He has allowed it to come upon you. But He does. And He is with you in it. Jesus has passed through the great wilderness Himself, and come out on the other side and He will be with you in your wilderness, and lead you safely home. He will.

"But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you." (Isaiah 43:1-3, ESV)

"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19, ESV)

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. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother." (1 John 4:19-21, ESV)

BENEDICTION

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

(Jude 24-25, ESV)

What did you think of today's sermon?

If God's love is not just something He does but who He is, how should that change the way you think about Him—especially when you are going through trials or suffering?

What evidence in your life shows that you are receiving and resting in God's love—and where might you be resisting or doubting it?

Since God loved you when you were His enemy, who in your life right now is hard to love, and what would it look like to love them as God has loved you?

How does seeing the person and work of Jesus—His life, death, resurrection, and return—deepen your confidence in God's love for you today?

If perfect love casts out fear, what fears are still shaping your thoughts, choices, or relationships, and how can you bring those fears into the light of God's perfect love?