

How We Know...We Love

WFR WC 6-7-25

INTRODUCTION

- A. Opening & Welcome
- B. Recognize Scott Nelson's service to WFR (Jean)

Scripture Reader:

1 John 4:7-8 *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (Premise for a new circle to teach us)*

- C. Introduced **love for each other** in an earlier circle and today John is going to circle back and discuss the Who-Why-How of what makes this love possible for us.

1 John 4:9-21 *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

¹³*This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.*

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

¹⁷This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

I. LOVE'S SOURCE

4:7 *for love comes from God.....* **4:8 & 16** *God is Love....*

A. The Community of God (Trinity-Father/Son/Spirit)

1. Outside of time and space

John 17:5 *And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

Eph. 1:4-5 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—*

2. Inside of time and space

Matt. 3:16-17 *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, **whom I love**; with him I am well pleased.”*

John 14 *I am in the Father and the Father is in me....I will ask the Father and he will give you another counselor-the Spirit*

B. The Community of God/Humanity

4:10 *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us.....*

12 *God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

1. Gen. 1:26 God: Let US make man in our image...
2. Gen. 2:20 But for man, no suitable helper was found....2:22 Lord God made a woman....2:24 For this reason a man will....be united to his wife and they will become one flesh....
3. Gen. 3....Satan, Sin & Knowing Evil enter....

II. LOVE SENT

4:9 *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him....*

4:14-15 *And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.*

- A. The Incarnation: God in Flesh (John 1:1-4, 14)
- B. A consistent theme in John & 1,2,3 John

III. LOVE SACRIFICED

4:10 *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins....*

2:2 *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

A. The Atoning Sacrifice on the Cross

Heb. 9:26b & 28a *But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself..... so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;*

2 Cor. 5:21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

B. Out of the Son's mission parameters here on earth, dealing with our sin problem was right at the top!

C. The love it took to plan this....for the Father to allow this...for the Son to do this...it was the ONLY way!

IV. LOVE SECURES

4:17-18 *This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

A. The Ascension, Representation & Return of Christ

B. Confidence....Love....Fearlessness

Heb. 3:6 *But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our **confidence**.....*

Heb. 4:16 *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with **confidence**.....*

Heb. 10:19 *Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have **confidence** to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus.....*

Heb. 10:35 *So do not throw away your **confidence**.....*

Heb. 11:1 *Now faith is **confidence** in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

Heb. 13:6 *So we say with **confidence**, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.*

- C. Insecurity.....Hate....Fear are the tools of our enemy!

V. LOVE SANCTIFYING

4:13 *This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.*

- A. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- B. Jesus' consistent message to his disciples in John 14-16 & Acts 1-2: The Holy Spirit in Us is the Game Changer
- C. Guide, Counselor, Teacher, Conscience-Voice, Fruit-Bearer (1st is Love, provided by relationship builders)

VI. LOVE SHARES

4:7 *Dear friends, let us love one another....**4:11-12** *Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.....**4:19-21** *We love because he first***

loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

- A. So many ways to show this love..... (Invent Ways)
- B. There is no better way to show God's love than to expand our Forever Family!

CONCLUSION (Praise band back up front)

- A. Answering the Call to God's Love
 - 1. Question: *What is the greatest commandment?*
 - 2. Answer: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength & Love your neighbor as yourself.*
- B. Surrender to Self-Sanctifying Spirit-Serving as the Saved

Offer Invite