

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Finding Love in our Differences

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor

December 20, 2020

Advent - Love



• **Christ is love embodied.**

1 John 4:7-16 (NLT) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **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. **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. **11** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No 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. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. **15** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16** And 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.

• **Love defines and propels us.**

John 13:34-35 (NLT) "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. **35** Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

• **Love empowers us to cross the borders.**

Matthew 5:43-44 (NLT) "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy. **44** But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!"

Ephesians 2:1-6 "Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. **2** You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. **3** All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. **4** But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, **5** that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)"

Big Idea: Receive God's love found in Christ & build bridges of love to others.

Next Steps:

• **Walk the bridge of grace through faith in Christ.**

• **Build a bridge of love to others.**

Missional Challenge: Prayer walk in your neighbourhood / sing carols.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Finding Love in our Differences
#4 of 5 - December 20, 2020**

1) Which “promise” from the 100 Days of Impact was most significant for you this week and why? Where have you seen God working as you engage with the weekly Missional Challenges?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) Read 1 John 4:7-16. What do we learn about God’s love from this passage? How does Christ embody God’s love to us?

4) Read John 13:34-35. Why did Jesus say this was a “new commandment”? In what way are we to love others? What are the implications for us as individuals and as an IC?

5) How does our ability to love define us as Christians? In what ways can we express greater love to those we are seeking to reach for Christ?

6) Read Matthew 5:43-44. How was this teaching revolutionary in Jesus’ time and in our day and age? What does this look like for you practically speaking today? Who feels like an enemy to you? What is God asking you to do in this regard?

7) Read Ephesians 2:1-6. How does God’s plan of salvation demonstrate what Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:43-44? How does the realization of God’s grace impact the way you forgive and love others? Is there anyone you need to forgive today?

8) In what ways is God asking you to “walk the bridge of grace through faith” and build bridges of love to others? What is your next step? Pray for one another as you share how God is leading you.

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