

Title: *Substitutionary Love (Advent 2025)*

Key text: 1 John 4:7-11

Suppl. texts: Rom. 3:23, 6:23a, Prov. 26:11, 1 John 3:1a

Introduction: Let's focus on the love lavished on us by the redemptive love of Jesus Christ.

1. Truly *shocking* love!

- Surprise, questions, appreciation, or disgust.
- What could motivate God to do such a thing?
- Love finds its source & definition in God.
- God sent His Son as the ***Perfect Substitute***.

2. The *Good*, the *bad*, & the *ugly* news!

- We all know the Good News.
- What's the bad news?
- Sin has a 100% kill rate.
- What's the ugly news?
- We can't fix, help, or heal ourselves.
- We further endanger ourselves & others.
- We are our own worst enemy!
- The problem isn't outside; it's inside of us.

3. Radical, loving *intervention & rescue*.

- Sin seems undefeatable to us.
- We justify our sins as mistakes.
- Not to do a moralistic preaching tour...
- Not to do miracles & wow the crowds...
- But to **radically lavish** His love on us.

Sermon notes:

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1. Truly love!

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- Love finds its _____ & _____ in God.
- God sent His Son as the _____.

2. The , the , & the news!

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- Sin seems _____ to us.
- We _____ our sins as _____.
- Not to do a _____ preaching _____
- Not to do _____ & _____ the crowds...
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