

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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