



ReDiscover Christmas
Finding Love in Our Differences
1 John 4:7-18
Dr. Jimmy Stewart
December 20, 2020

Sermon Summary

Advent is the time we focus on the arrival of Jesus. This year our Advent theme is Rediscover Christmas: Good News in Troubling Times. Each week, we are focusing on a different attribute of God represented in the coming of Jesus: hope, peace, joy, and love. Through these traits, we are learning how we can rediscover Christmas despite the challenges, hardships, pains, and discouragements we might be experiencing. Because Christ has come to be Immanuel, God with us, we can experience love no matter what discouragement we may be going through.

Diving Into The Message

“Fearless love makes you cross the border.”

The love of Jesus overcomes fear.

Jesus unifies across borders.

Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, Shepherds, angels and Magi

1. Jesus is love.

1 John 4:7-16

2. Love defines us and motivates us.

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:34-35***

3. Love empowers us to cross borders.

*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. **Matthew 5:43-44***

Jesus reached across cultural, spiritual, political and racial divides.

*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***

Jesus loves you.

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Life Application Questions

1. Name some ways people are different from each other.
2. The world tends to focus on major differences but minor differences are more prevalent. Why do people look down on those who are different from them? Do you ever? What role does fear play in keeping people separated? What role does love play in bringing people together? 1 John 4:18
3. Are there times or things that cause people who are different from one another to connect/unite?
4. What do we learn from Jesus birth from what didn't happen and who wasn't invited?
5. What do we learn from Jesus' birth about people who were different from each other coming together?
6. What implications are there for our lives and ministry today?
7. Read Galatians 3:27-29. How should we view our differences now that we are "One in Christ"?