

XO Series Part 1

The Marriage Relationship

Background of 1 John

See last week's handout for more background info. (You can see it on our app under the sermons button) If you belong to the family of God, then the letters from the Apostle John were written for you. Believing on the Lord Jesus Christ brings us into God's family and into the fellowship of the Father's house. As we study the letters of 1, 2, and 3 John over the next couple of months, you will begin to see they are showing you how to love like God and how to be authentic with God. Some have called 1 John "the holy of holies" of the New Testament. It shows us how God invites us into something very sacred. A deep personal relationship with Himself and with other people.

Today's 1 John Text:

1 John 4

***16** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. **17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. **19** We love Him because He first loved us.*

Sermon Points:

In the Old Testament, God was with them, but in the New Testament, God was in them.

When it comes to understanding the God of the Bible, it is always about proximity.

1. Love like God. (V16)

“To believe in Christ and to love your spouse are not conditions by which we may dwell in God but rather are evidences of the fact that God has already taken possession of our lives to make this possible.”

God is Love. God is in you. You can love like God.

2. Love like a Lion. (v17)

I have confidence in my marriage, not because of how much we love each other but because of how much God has loved us and loves us being together.

3. Love like perfect Love. (v18)

So if you have fear in your marriage, cast all your fears upon Him.

4. Love like a Turtle. (v19)

I can love God only because I stand on the shoulders of His love.