

“Jesus Came to Reveal the Love of God”

Christmas Advent pt.1

1 John 4:7-11

Jesus came to reveal the love of God. The birth, life, and death of Jesus reveal why, how, and who you should you love. The assurance of God’s love through Jesus encourages us to receive Christ + love God + love others this season and every season.

Discussion Qs

1. What are some reasons why Jesus came form heaven to earth?
2. Why does John need to repeat the call to love others?
3. How might culture’s use of the term “love” differ from the biblical standard of God’s love?
4. Who are you to love?
 - a. Who do you love?

Pastor Bruce Zachary

Mobil Ave. Campus

intro.

Subject: Jesus came to reveal the love of God [The assurance of God’s love]

Object: Receive Christ + love God + love others

Context: Proofs of salvation (born-again) are purity, discern true from false religion, + love others

A. Christ-like love for others flows from God's love [7-8] [Why you should love]

1. Those who know God's love will love others [7] Beloved, let us love one another

a. God loves you [7] beloved: loved by God. If you receive God's love it will change how you relate to God & others. Knowing how much God loves you is the key to proper re with God and others

b. Love for others flows from experiencing God's love [7-8,11] let us love one another [7,11]

i. everyone who loves is born of God & knows God [7] God's love displayed through us shows we've been born of God (new nature, born-again) & know God

ii. He who does not love does not know God [8] love is **the** test of the claim of knowing God

iii. If you've experienced God's love it is only reasonable to respond with love to God & others [11]

? Why does John need to repeat the call to love others? [1Jn. 2:9-11, 3:10-18; Jn 13:14, 34-35]

2. God is the source & standard of love [7-8]

a. God is the origin of true love [7] love is of God

b. God defines & demonstrates what love is [8] God is love: [rep v.16] [cf. love is not God]

? How might culture's use of the term "love" differ from the biblical standard of God's love?

B. Jesus came into the world to reveal God's love [9-10] [How you should love]

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world: How does Jesus reveal God's love?

1. God's love is sacrificial [9] God has sent His only Son [9]

a. Real love gives sacrificially (costs something) [Jn.3:16, Jn.10:11, Ph.2:3-8]

i. * Christmas present(s) sacrifice to show love vs. give to get or obligation

ii. Cf. giving to get is manipulation (quid pro quo)

iii. Giving His only Son is the ultimate expression of love [Gen. 22], and God's best [2Cor. 9:15]

2. God's love gives life and meets needs [9] that we might live through Him:

a. Life with God is more than physical existence: spiritual, abundant, w/eternal purpose [*zoe* v. *bios*]

i. Man's greatest need is restoration of life with God

ii. Parents provide physical life, but cannot impart spiritual life [Cf. should point to the One who can]

3. God's love initiates [10] In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us

a. Our love is responsive to His love not a surprise that we should love God, but that He loves us

i. 1 Jn. 4:19 We love [Him] because He first loved us

ii. Rom.5:8-10: while we were still enemies to God and sinners Jesus died for us

iii. Jesus loved difficult to love, tax collectors & sinners, responded to His love & world is transformed

iv. Cf. generally the world loves those who love them first.

b. Love flows down: God loves us more that we love him. We are to love others more than they love us (parent and child)

4. God's love provides forgiveness in order to reconcile and restore [10] and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

a. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins: propitiation: sacrifice that turns away God's wrath

i. Sin separates us from God, but Jesus' sacrifice makes forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration

available to all who will submit to God through Jesus

b. True love forgives to make restoration and reconciliation possible

C. Jesus' followers display God's love to others [11] [Who you should love]

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1. Love God more than any other [Matt. 22:37] love God with all heart, soul, mind, (& strength)

2. Love your neighbor as yourself [Matt. 22:39]

a. Community

b. Other believers: one another

3. Family + friends

a. Family [Eph.5:25] Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church ...

b. Friends [Jn. 15:13] Greater love has no one than this than to lay down one's life for his friends

4. The world [Jn.3:16]

5. Love your enemies [Mt. 5:44] [bless, do good & pray for]

Conc. Receive Christ + love God + love others

Pastor Bryan Carver

Lewis Rd. Campus

subject: Jesus came to reveal the love of God

object: love God and love others

1. Why you should love (7-8)

biblical definition of love: a self-sacrificing, caring commitment that shows itself in seeking the highest good of the one loved.

2. How you've been loved (9-10)

- a. His only begotten Son
- b. God's love initiates
- c. God's love sacrifices

3. Who you should love (11)

- a. love God more than any other (Matt 22:37)
- b. love your neighbor as yourself (Matt 22:39)
- c. family and friends (Eph 5:25, John 15:13)
- d. love the world (John 3:16)
- e. love your enemies (Matt 5:44)

4. How to grow in love for God and others

- a. spend time with the Lord alone daily
- b. be consistent and prepared in corporate worship
- c. engage in community with others
- d. reach the lost