

PREPARE THE

Way

LOVE

ADVENT SERIES

1 John 4:7-10

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Love Defined:

Websters definition of Love...

“A strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties. Attraction based on desire.”

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Love Defined:

The Biblical definition of Love...

*“The act of putting others before oneself.
Serving the interest and well-being of
another .”*

Love Defined:

Love is a **covenant** (Holiness)

Love is a **commitment** (Decision)

Love is a **command** (Obedience)

John 15:12-14

“This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

Love is a Command:

1. All of God's commands are always consistent with His character
2. All of God's commands require a response

Command and Response:

Light: Command and Response

(Matthew 4:16, Matthew 5:16)

Spirit: Command and Response

(John 3:7)

Love: Command and Response

(Deuteronomy 6, Matthew 5, 22, Romans 5)

1 John 4:7-10

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Revelation 2:4-5

“But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.”

Question:

What is my Response?

1 Corinthian 13:1-8

If I speak human or angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthian 13:1-8

² If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

John 13:35

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1 Corinthian 13:1-8

³ And if I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, ⁵ is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs.

Hebrews 12:15

“Make sure that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many.”

1 Corinthian 13:1-8

⁶ Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends.