



Advent

Love

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:7-11

1. Love is of God (vs. 7-8)

“Love is not merely a gift or attribute of God but in the deepest sense as God’s own nature.” -James Montgomery Boice

POINT: God defines love....love does not define Him.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved). Ephesians 2:4-5

Agape: Unconditional and Sacrificial

“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” 1 John 2:2

Propitiation: God’s wrath is absorbed by God’s love.

God Defines What Love is NOT:

Love is not a feeling.

Love does not reciprocate.

God Defines What Love IS:

Love is action.

Love gives when love is not returned.

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” John 15:13

2. Love Flows From God (vs. 11)

POINT: God's love comes to us to flow through us.

"If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." 1 John 4:20-21

"Love seeks vertical fulfillment so it can horizontally serve." -Paul David Tripp