

GOD IS LOVE...

5-7-2023 AM

INTRO.:

A. Read Text: **1 John 4:8, 16.**

B. Regarding the text:

1. The Bible has so much to say about the love of God.
2. We cannot begin to cover everything in a single lesson, but we will highlight some important things about His love.
3. First, we will identify what this love is, and then we will see how God has demonstrated this love to us. Finally, we will examine our reaction to His love.

II. WHAT IS LOVE?

A. **Agape love – a word that is frequently misused.**

1. This word is misunderstood in our English language because of the multiple uses of the word.
 - 1) From the love of a spouse or child, to love of friends, to objects and activities.
 - 2) Agape is a word associated with the Christian life (**1 Cor. 13; Col. 3:14; Gal. 5:22-23**). God is love; not merely is loving.
 - 3) Jesus' love is seen at the tomb of Lazarus (**John 11:35**).
 - 4) Also, as He viewed Jerusalem: (**Matt. 23:37**).
2. This kind of love would solve a multitude of problems.

B. **God's love for us beyond measure.**

1. It is at the foundation of every relationship we have with God.
2. Love is... *"to be full of good will and exhibit the same."*
 - 1) It is difficult to describe because it is not only an emotion.
 - 2) It is emotion coupled with proper action.

C. **This kind of love will never do harm.**

III. GOD IS LOVE.

A. **1 John 4:8, 16: Both passages clearly state "God is love." What does that mean?**

1. God has many qualities. Yet, love is the basis of all that God is.
2. If we want to understand love, examine **HOW** He loves us.
3. All of God's dealings with us comes from His love.
 - 1) **1 John 4:9-10** – **He sent His only begotten Son.** This is at the bed-rock of our salvation (**John 3:16**).
 - 2) **1 John 4:10** *"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us..."*
 - 3) God's love was **demonstrated toward ALL mankind.** EVERYONE can have this hope of salvation.
 - 4) **Romans 5:8** – tells us that the death of Christ is a demonstration of God's love toward us.

B. **Grace and mercy are products of His love.**

1. We often speak of the grace of God. Grace means unmerited favor and describes ALL that God has done to make salvation possible.
2. God's mercy is seen because of His love and grace (**Eph. 2:4-5**).

C. **His love is seen in His being longsuffering with men.**

1. **2 Peter 3:9; Psalm 86:15.**
2. Even though His love is not clearly mentioned in the longsuffering passages. It is obvious that His bearing with us is a product of His love. **1 Cor. 13:4** describes this love... it suffers long.

D. *His revelation declares His love for us.*

1. Some call the Bible a “love letter from God.”
 - 1) Inspiration is our guide to eternal salvation.
 - 2) His word provides “*all things that pertain to life and godliness*” (**2 Peter 1:2-3**).
2. God’s word reveals the magnitude of His love for us.

IV. WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.

A. It is a love without end.

B. Without question, God loves us and has clearly shown the depth of that love.

1. **1 John 4:19** – *we love Him back.*
2. Remember His love is unconditional (**Rom. 5:8**).

V. CONCLUSION:

A. Someone sang, “Love makes the world go round...”

B. Love is essential to happiness.