

February 4, 2024
Out of His Great Love
Reminding the Church Series

Text: Overview of 1 John

Introduction: Our hymnals overflow with songs proclaiming
God's love and its impact on mankind. Read lyrics:

86 – The Love of God, all verses.

79 – The Wonder of It All, verse 1.

88 – Such Love, verses 2, 4

415/357 – Redeemed, verse 3

507 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, verses 1, 4

Through the month of February, we will be using the letter of 1 John as our text. Today we will be considering the unsurpassed love of God and the love we are called to live out in the church and world, then we will investigate the concept of God abiding with us and we in Him, and the last Sunday we will be encouraged by things we can be confident in – things we can know.

A Brief Background to 1 John

Author: The disciple John – one of the Sons of Thunder

One of the closest disciples of Jesus (whom Jesus loved)
Also wrote the Gospel of John, two other very short letters
and the Revelations of Jesus Christ.

Probably the last living apostle at the time of writing –
believed to be living in Ephesus.

Recipients: No specific person or group is identified in the letter –
it is considered a general apostolic letter to the
churches of Asia Minor.

Setting: The letter was possibly written near the end of the first
century, as it addresses a religious philosophy
known as Gnosticism. It also makes no mention of a
persecution by Domitian which began in AD 95.

*Gnosticism taught that matter (the physical) was inherently evil
and spirit was good. They taught that Jesus could not have
really been a physical man (evil) and claimed an elevated
knowledge of truth that could even supersede the written
revelation of the apostles.*

Themes: Stick to the basics of the faith.

Don't be led astray by teachings that veer from the
apostles' teachings.

*This pastor assures them that sound faith acted upon obediently
will result in God's blessings of joy, holiness, and security.*

Challenges: The rigidity of John's theology – it is black and white.
In our "gray" world, his message might be rejected.

*I believe this letter has been given to us as a call to **obedience and
love**, as a challenge to live **pure, holy lives** in a time when truth
and holiness seem almost non-existent. It was written by a disciple
and apostle determined to hold fast to the truths taught and shown
to him by Jesus Himself.*

Out of His Great Love

I. God's Love for Us.

A. Love Is Defined by God. **1 John 4:7-8, 16**

God loves the unlovable and the unlovely, not because we deserve
to be loved or because of any excellence we possess, but
because it is His nature to love and He must be true to His
nature. (gotQuestions.org) This is *agape* love.

B. Ultimate Love Was Displayed by God by Sending Jesus.
1 John 4:9-10, 14

Only begotten Son – emphasizes the uniqueness of Jesus, the only
one of a kind; One who has been eternally with God the
Father; no other person is God's Son in this way.

1. Life Through Him.

There is more to life than just breathing; Jesus brought us purpose.

2. Propitiation for Our Sins.

Propitiation – the idea of a sacrifice that turns away the wrath of
God. God rightly regarded us, apart from Him, as worthy
targets of His judgment.

3. A Savior. **1 John 3:16a** See also **John 3:17-18.**

C. God Welcomes People into His Family. **1 John 3:1-2**

1. No Longer Recognized.

2. Glorification Not Fully Realized.

II. Our Love For Him.

A. We Love God Because He First Loved Us. 1 John 4:19

B. Our Love Is Shown by Our Obedience. 1 John 2:5; 5:3

III. Our Love for the Brethren.

A. Love for the Church Is an Expectation for All in the Church. 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7a

Remind of John 13:34-35.

B. Love for the Brethren Is Proof of Regeneration. 1 John 3:14, 19; 4:16

C. Love for God and Love for the Brethren Are Inseparable. 1 John 4:20-21; 5:1

D. Love Is an Action, Far Surpassing Mere Words. 1 John 3:18

- Stinginess does not represent God's love well. 1 John 3:17
- Extravagance should characterize the believer's love. 1 John 3:16
- As we love, God becomes evident. 1 John 4:12

IV. A Forbidden Love. 1 John 2:15-17

World – 1. The physical world, the earth.

2. Mankind. As understood in John 3:16.

3. An organized system made up of a set of ideas, peoples, activities, purposes, etc. (e.i. the World of Sports, or the World of Finance)

Stop loving the world (the morally evil system that is opposed to all that God is and holds dear.)

Because the verb is in present tense, it implies the people had already been developing an affection for the world.

A. The Fleeting.

Passing away – again present tense, indicating that the process of decay had already begun. v. 17

Worldliness – anything in a Christian's life that causes him/her to

lose the enjoyment of the Father's love or to not desire to do the Father's will.

1. The lust of the flesh.

Anything that appeals to man's fallen nature; the desires for sinful, sensual pleasures.

Any attitude or action that makes the individual, and not God, the center and measure of the universe (IVP, p. 70)

2. The lust of the eyes.

Covetousness or materialism. May not just be the desire for more; may just be a desire for what someone else has.

3. The pride of life.

Pride with one's position or status in the world.

Can also refer to an overconfident pride because of one's possessions. (Self-reliance, self-sufficiency)

B. The Forever.

1. The love of the Father. 1 John 3:1; adopted as His children forever.

2. The will of God. God has always had a purpose and plan and He always will.

So What? 1 John 4:11 *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

Ought – carries the idea of indebtedness, something to be paid back; a debt that can reasonably be expected to be repaid
Jesus' love was sacrificial love – our love must be self-sacrificing.

Questions to Ponder Through the Week
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1. Read 1 John 4:7-8. John stated succinctly that God is love; He is the picture of what love should look like. Do people in our world see God as love? Why or why not? Could these beliefs/attitudes be changed/impacted by God's children? What are some practical things they could do?

2. Why was God's gift of sending Jesus the best way for Him to show mankind that He loves people? How did Jesus show His love for people? How does Christ's love help us to love other people?

3. Why is it easy to love someone who you think or you know loves you? Why is obedience portrayed as a suitable response to one who loves you? What are some specific ways you show your love to God?

4. God's children are expected to love each other. It proves a person has been saved. A believer cannot say that they love God if they are unwilling to love brothers and sisters in Christ. List seven things you could do this week to show your love to another believer. When will you do these things?

5. Read 1 John 2:17. With full knowledge that the things of this life are all passing away, why is it such a struggle to not love the world? Read Matthew 6:19-21, 24, and 33. What will you do as safeguards to keep your affections where they should be?

Sermon Topic for February 11:

Abiding – Part 1 1 John

Read John 15:1-17. How would you define *abide*? List three truths you learned about abiding in the Vine, Jesus. Now skim 1 John and notice the many times he spoke of abiding in this short letter. What is God's expectation for His children? Is He abiding in you? Are you abiding in Him?