

We love, because He first loved us.
1 John 4:19

If Christ is in us then...

- We are changed.
- We are fulfilled to enjoy God's purpose for us.
- We are enabled to make a difference in this world for God.
- We are in intimate relationship with God.
- Our deepest needs are met.

The letter of 1 John

- Written by the apostle John, who also authored the other 2 letters, Revelation, and the gospel of John.
- Written late in the first century, after the gospels were written.
- Spiral outline
- Reason for writing: 1 John 1:4; 1 John 5:13
- Our verse for this morning: 1 John 4:19,

“We love, because He first loved us.”

What is love?

- World's perspective:
- Bible era Greek words:
 - Eros
 - Phileo
 - Storgia
 - Ludus
 - Pragma
 - Philautia
 - Agape

God is love

- 1 John 4:7,8
- Those who love God love others (see also 1 Jn 3:10, 4:20-21, John 13:35)
- To not love others implies that one does not know God, is not in touch with the source of love (1 Jn 4:8, 16), and does not imitate Jesus (1 Jn 3:16, 4:10).

The perfect demonstration of love

- God sent His son to redeem (1Jn 4:9, 10)
- Just as God was active in love in sending His son, if we are connected to God, we will demonstrate love in action to others (1Jn 3:16-18).
- Believers have eternal life as a result of that love from God (John 3:16).
- We are individually in relationship with God in an abundant life giving way.
- Since God is the source of love, and is love, our love for others is a manifestation of God's love working through us.

Because, as God's children, we have experienced love...

- We are impelled to love others (1 Jn 4:11,12).
- But some people are hard to love...
- This is how we demonstrate God loves...
- This is how God's love is made complete...
- And because God is love (1Jn 4:8), and the source of love (1Jn 4:7, 19, 20), and the standard of what love is (1Jn 4:13-16), and encourages us in love (1Jn 4:17, 18), His command for us to love is not burdensome.

I can know that God loves me...

- But there is more:
 - 1 John 4:16
- We can be confident before God
 - 1 John 4:17
- Because fear and love are related
 - 1 John 4:18

I am not experiencing that kind of confidence and freedom. Why?

- We are supremely valued by God (Jesus' blood), we are completely forgiven, we are saved, not based on what we have done or can do, but because God loves us in our weakness.
- There is a difference between a forensic declaration and an experiential declaration.
- My experience:
 - To experience more of God's forgiveness, I need to forgive more.
 - To experience more of God's love, I need to love as God loves.
 - If I am not, it is because my hands are full of what I have been given and I am unable to receive more. I am trapped.



Takeaways:

- Big idea: God is love.
- What does that mean to me: God loved me first. I am undeniably, irrevocably loved, even at my worst moment. I can do nothing to earn more of that love. The gift of love cannot be separated from the giver of love.
- Being loved, and believing that I am loved, empowers me to love others.
- What is my response / responsibility?
Accept God's love. Love God. Love others.

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... Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col 1:27). And ... that Christ might dwell in our hearts through faith (Eph 3:17). If Christ is in us, then:

- We are changed.
- Our deepest needs are met.
- We are fulfilled to enjoy God's purpose for us.
- We are enabled to make a difference for God.
- We are in intimate relationship with God.

1 John written by the apostle John, late in the first century. It is likely a distributed letter.

Reason for writing: 1Jn 1:4; 1Jn 5:13

Our verse: 1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us. (NASB)

Bible era words for love:

Love comes from where? And Why? (1Jn 4:7,8) _____

The perfect demonstration of love _____

Because we are the children of God _____

I can know that God loves me. But there is more: 1 John 4:16

How are my hands full?

What's the deal about loving others?

What is the relationship between fear and love? 1 John 4:18

Takeaways from our passage: 1John 4:7-21

Big Idea: _____

What does that mean to me? _____

What is my response / responsibility?

Accept God's Love. Love God. Love others.