

Wednesday Word

1 John 4:16 – *“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”*

I grew up in a very large church in Tacoma. It had so many members, each grade had its own Sunday School Class and its own Sunday School Room. I remember my second-grade teacher, my fourth-grade teacher and my fifth-grade teacher. Like most churches we were taught Bible basics from stories to principals of biblical theology. Sunday School, or any biblical education like it, builds a solid foundation in the life of any saint of God young or old. While so many of those years of my life seem a distant memory, there is one day in fifth grade class that still stands out clearly in my mind.

I have always held to a Pre-Tribulation rapture view point my entire life (I was raised and taught well that way). I remember vividly in 5th grade Sunday school being taught this from a scripture over the course of a few Sundays. When we reached the end of the lesson, me and the other kids in the class began to ask “What if” questions.

We would ask things like: *“If the rapture happened while you were in the car what would happen?”* or *“If the rapture happened while I was on a water slide?”* or *“What if you were trying on shoes at a shoe store, would those shoes go in the rapture with you? Wouldn’t that be stealing?”* and other silly questions young kids ask.

But I remember one kid asking: *“What if the rapture happened on my way to the Altar to give my life to Jesus but I hadn’t reached the altar yet?”* I remember this question very distinctly because the response from my teacher stayed with me and really helped shape my view of God and his grace and mercy from that moment on.

My teacher responded: “You would be caught away in the rapture because your heart already made the choice to repent even if your words hadn’t spoke it out loud.”

I have always appreciated that answer because, beside my rapture theology, it taught me the foundational principal that with God it is always a matter of the heart not your words or actions. As a young boy that taught me such security in my salvation. To know that God was looking at my heart that wanted to live for him not always the mistakes I made or dumb things I said or did.

The foundation of our faith is understanding and relating to the heart of God. So many times, we have allowed our view of the love of God to be polluted or to be perverted based upon our outlook of the World or maybe situations that have happened to us. We must know that the sacrifice that Christ made on the cross was the ultimate gift of love. Once we have this in our heart, everything we build above that will be built on the proper foundation of God’s love.

Let's be reminded of the unfailing Love of our God. That he loves us enough to give us free choice but also loves us enough to change us by the power of his spirit to reflect that same love he showed us back into the world.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg