

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Loved to Love

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

1 John 4:7-12

Theme: We have been loved to love.

Introduction: Kids ask a lot of questions—they have an innate curiosity about life. And the most common question they ask is: *why?* They are trying to figure out life. Similarly, the Lord wants us to humbly seek to understand his character and his ways. Especially so in regard to love; we should love God and love our neighbors.

Here are 4 parts to the answer as to why we should love one another:

1. The restatement (7a)

John repeats himself: let us love one another. The repetition shows its importance. Love runs through the Christian life. We were created to love and we have been redeemed to love.

John also nuances: *Beloved*, let us love... We are those who've received God's love.

2. The reasons (7b-8)

John gives 2 reasons: creation—love is from God; and redemption—those who've been born again and reconciled to God are called to love, as a fruit.

If God is love (and he is), then we who are created in his image are called to display his character, including in love. We were created to display his glory.

We have been brought into God's family, a family marked by love.

2. The rubric (9-11)

What does it look like to love? What's our standard? It is the sending of Jesus to rescue his enemies.

Propitiation speaks to the wonder of Jesus taking our penalty in our place thus showing us the greatness of his love.

If we are to follow God, we should take loving initiative and be generous in our care and blessing to others.

4. The result (12)

John has a remarkable point: in our love, the invisible God is made visible.

Our active and aggressive love for one another reveals God and his work in us as his disciples (cf. John 13:35)

As we love one another, the church is edified, the world is evangelized, and God is magnified.

Questions:

1. Do you recognize and embrace your responsibility to love your brothers and sisters in the church?
2. How does selfishness impair your love?
3. How can you grow in experiencing God's love in communion with him?