

Sermon Discussion - 12 March 2023

Read 1 John 4:7-21 together.

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

We use the word “love” in a million different ways to express fond feelings, devotion, caring, love in marriage, love of our pets, and even our cars. When you say that you “love” the Lord, or you “love” Jesus, what is different about why and how you use this expression to describe how you feel about God?

Observation *Discovering the context*

- How would you explain the meaning of “love” to a child in a way that child could understand?
- How is a non-Christian expressing love different from a Christian expressing love? Think about the source and origin of love (v. 7)

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. How does John see a cross as the highest expression of love?
2. How would you define propitiation to a group of your peers? What does it tell us about God? About man? Where do we see these themes throughout the rest of Scripture?
3. How can Christians perfect the love of God? Does that mean there is something lacking in Christ’s work?
4. In verses 17-18, John claims that perfect love casts out fear. Fear of what? Find at least one additional scripture that gives you confidence that there is no need to fear death if you are a true born-again disciple of Jesus.
5. Does loving someone (biblically) require liking or trusting him? Why/why not? What is the difference?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?
- Try memorising 1 John 4:10.
“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?