**The Real God Series October 30, 2022**

**The Love of God – 1 John 4:7-12**

Love

* **Selfless** and unconditional care for someone without regard for personal gain
* 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a   
  4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.

God’s Love

* God **eternally** giving of Himself to others

God the Father Loves **God the Son**

* John 3:35   
  The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

God The Son Loves **God The Father**

* John 14:31a   
  The world must learn that **I love the Father** and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

From the Mutual Love of the Father and Son Flows the **Love of God to Mankind**

* John 15:9a   
  As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

Love Indicates the **Nature of a Person** 1 John 4:7-8

* To love God is **to know Him**
  + If we do not love others in the way God has loved us, we cannot claim to know God
  + We are image bearers of God and therefore reflect the love of God to others
    - “Never are we more like God than when we love”  
      (Unknown author)

God’s Love is **Sacrificial** 1 John 4:9-10

* Sin has consequences and the consequence of sin is death   
  (Romans 6:23)
* In love God sent His Son to be the substitute for humankind
  + Jesus Christ died so that all who believe in Him do not need to face eternal and conscious punishment

God’s Love Compels Us **to Love One Another** 1 John 4:11-12

* True love from God cannot be selfish
  + Because we have been recipients of God’s ultimate love, in response to that love we can and do love others
  + This love extends even to those who may hate us   
    (Matthew 5:43-48)

Love Draws us to **Obey God**

* John 14:15, 24   
  15 If you love me, you will obey what I command.   
   24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

Love Compels **Us to Action**

* 1 John 3:18   
  Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue   
  but with actions and in truth.
* 1 John 4:19–21   
  19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

A Warning About Love

* Some claim that because God is love, (1 John 4:8),   
  and because He sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for the world (1 John 2:2, 4:10), therefore every person who has ever lived will, because of God’s love, be saved from Hell
  + This is called the heresy of **universalism**

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