

LOVING AS GOD LOVES

1 John 4:7-11

INTRODUCTION: In the English language we have only one word for love. People get the distorted view that the love of God is just a feeling and last only for a while like the other kinds of love they have known. However the love of God is an unconditional love and is an extraordinary gift from our God to each of us.

I. THE ORIGIN OF GOD'S LOVE!

1 John 4:7-8: John begins by telling us that God is love and the one who does not love others does not know God. In the Greek language there are four words used for love: "Storage, philia, eros, and agape." Each of those words has a distinct meaning. "Storage" is the love between family members. "Philia" is a friendship between kindred spirits. The word "eros" is not used in the New Testament and speaks of sexual desire. "Agape" is godly love or unconditional love.

II. THE SACRIFICE OF GOD'S LOVE

1 John 4:9-11: here John presents the ultimate example of godly love. Christ's death on the cross for us is the greatest love that anyone could express. John 15:12-14. The sacrifice of our own lives for the lives of others is the greatest act of love, or agape that can be shown. Agape is humbling ourselves to sacrifice our own selves for the benefit of others: 1 John 4:10. True sacrificial, unconditional love gives of itself and expects nothing in return. We must learn to love others even when they don't love us back.

III. GOD DESIRES TO LOVE OTHERS THROUGH US!

1 John 4:11-15: as we chose to allow God to show others His love through our lives people will see the Lord! Our Lord can be seen by others as we love them with His love. John 14:23; John 15:7-8. As we allow Jesus Christ's words to abide within us and live them out others will see Jesus Christ in us. John 16:12-14.

IV. GOD SHARES HIS LOVE THROUGH US AND REMOVES FEAR FROM US!

1 John 4:16; 1 John 4:8. When we chose to love others with the love of God it removes our fears because we are no longer looking for what is in it for us. 1 John 4:17-18; Galatians 5:14. When we love others with the love of God we are fulfilling the Law, which those who try to fulfill by using the Law and unable to do. Matthew 22:37-40. Loving our Lord and others with the love of God, which He gives to us when we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior glorifies our Lord, blesses others, and changes us. .

V. WE ARE TO LOVE OTHERS AS OUR LORD LOVES US!

1 John 4:19-21: We should love God because He first loved us. This is not the feeling lead love, this is the God given love of God that He has shed abroad in our hearts that allows us to love others the same way our God loves us: Romans 5:1-5. Have you experienced the love of God? John 3:16-17.