

# The First and Final Word

Pastor Toby • Week 2 • 3/6/2022

## The Problem With Love

1 John 4:7, 19-21

Introduction: It's great to know that success = loving God; but it creates a problem...we humans don't know how to love well.

### The Dance of Love

- God takes the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He loved you \_\_\_\_\_. (John 3:16, Romans 5:8)
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ it at \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. (1 John 3:16, 4:9-10)
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ it to us free of charge.
- We must \_\_\_\_\_ His offer of love. (1 John 4:14-16)
- God then \_\_\_\_\_ you with His love. (Romans 5:5, 1 John 3:1)
- We must \_\_\_\_\_ in His love. (John 15:9, 1 John 4:16)
- God \_\_\_\_\_ us to \_\_\_\_\_ His love. (John 17:22, 1 John 4:7, 19-21)

Conclusion: If you have never received God's love, it will be impossible to reciprocate that love or redirect it to others!

### Icebreakers:

1. What is your favorite musical (either Broadway or classic movie), and why?
2. If you are a fan of classic movies (released before 1960), who is your favorite actor/actress, and why?

Sermon Summary: None of us is good at loving as God does, which is why He graciously teaches us to love by loving us first and offering us His love. When we receive it and learn to remain in it, He gives us the ability to reciprocate His love and then redirect it to those around us.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why does the dance of love have to start with God? Why can't we take the initiative and love God first?
2. Besides Christmas and the Cross, what are some other ways that God has proven His love to you?
3. Is it hard to receive God's love sometimes? If so, why? What gets in the way?
4. Have you ever been deeply moved by God's love at some point in your spiritual journey? If so, tell your group a little about the experience.
5. Read John 15:1-9 with your group. What's the difference between "receiving" God's love and "remaining" in God's love? Which is easier and why?
6. What are some practical steps that you can take as an individual to "remain" in God's love in your daily life?
7. How can brothers and sisters in Christ (even members of your group) help each other to "remain" in God's love?