

The First and Final Word

Pastor Toby • Week 3 • 3/13/2022

The Source of Love

1 John 4:7-8, 16

Introduction: "Love" describes who God is at His core, not just something that God feels like doing from time to time.

Key Ideas to Remember:

- God is love _____. (John 17:24, 14:31, 14:6-11)
 - God cannot _____ loving you. (Hosea 11:1-4, 7-9, 1 Timothy 1:12-16)
 - God is ALWAYS _____ by love. (Romans 8:28, Revelation 3:19)
- God created us to _____ in His love. (John 14:18-23, 17:20-26)
 - God longs to _____ you and have you love Him _____.
 - True _____ is only found in experiencing God's _____.
 - The joy of eternity will be enjoying a _____ love with God. (1 Corinthians 13:8-13, Revelation 21:1-7)

Conclusion: We can trust God's intentions towards us, because love is who He IS, not just something He DOES occasionally.

Icebreakers:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you like puzzles? What is your favorite kind and why does it appeal to you?
2. Who is your favorite literary detective and why? (Sherlock Holmes? Hercule Poirot? The "Murder She Wrote" lady? Columbo? Those people at CSI?)

Sermon Summary: God is the source of all love because He is love personified; His nature as a three-in-one God shows us that love is not something that God does from time to time, but something that He is – and He created us to share in that love.

Discussion Questions:

1. When you think about the Trinity in detail, do you enjoy the mental exercise associated with trying to understand the nuances of it, or do you shut down? Whatever your answer, why do you think you respond that way?
2. Read Hosea 11:1-4, 7-9. What does this passage communicate about God and His interactions with flawed humans?
3. Read Romans 8:28. Why is it hard sometimes to believe this verse? Why do we so often question God's motives in what He allows in our lives or deliberately brings into our lives?
4. Read Revelation 3:19 and Hebrews 12:5-6. How can discipline and rebuke be an expression of God's love for us?
5. Does God NEED us? If not, does that diminish our relationship with God or make it stronger? Explain your answer.
6. Have you ever had a meaningful experience of the love of God in your daily life, in response to an answered prayer, or a time of worship, or prayer, or meditation, or reading of Scripture, or trying time? Tell the story!
7. Read Revelation 21:1-7. How will your experience of God's love be different in eternity than it is today?