

Sermon Outlines

God Is Love

**"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."
(1 John 4:7-8)**

Study Text: 1 John 4:7-8 "God is Love."

From the overflow of the message on John the Baptist and the need to increase in the ways of the Lord, let us get down to pray about increasing in God's love.

- This is the 11th commandment and the key grace in the believer's life to be useful in the Lord's service.
- If we fail in the grace of love we will fail in all. In 1 Corinthians 13 the apostle Paul sounded forth the excellence of love above the other graces saying, "The greatest of these in charity."

Mr. Spurgeon said, "A man will love a dog or a bird sooner than be loveless. Captives have been known to fall in love with rats, and even spiders on the wall have been the objects of their affection. A little flower that could not speak has been the prisoner's beloved friend. We must have something to love. Oh, and what wealth of love Jesus brings into the heart when he enters it."

The question that the Lord is always asking is, "Have you tried the way of love?" His teaching was infinitely varied and exquisitely adapted to the moment.

- In our own fellowship with God let us major on His love to us; it will quicken our step.
- In our home-life love is the first thing we must seek to have a blessed home.
- In our church ministry we need to minister in the power of God's love. I read of Mr. Spurgeon that his voice was as clear as a bell - it was also full of passion from a laugh to sobbing with tears.

It is to be noted that the Lord Jesus never defined love just as He never sought to define faith. These are graces that are beyond analysis. They must be possessed and put into practice.

Love is beyond definition. It is as big as God Himself for "God is Love." The Puritan theologians, like Stephen Charnock and Thomas Watson, didn't seek to define God's possession of love - they delved into His goodness and expounded on the works and grace of the God who loves with infinite love. The authors of the Westminster Confession did the same. God's love is displayed in full view in His works and His dealings with the sons of men through His own Son. In Christ, we learn the wonders of God's love.

PRAY TO COMPREHEND THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST

God displayed his love in His Son (John 3:16)

- This was the apostle's prayer in Ephesians 3:17-19. The apostle did not pray solely for head knowledge of God's love, because it "passeth knowledge," but for the Ephesian Christians to experience it in their souls.

If God himself is love then to be filled with His power and blessing will lead us to a personal experience of His love in our souls.

- This is the deep-seated need of human hearts. Christ is the only One who can satisfy our need for love. The best-built mansion with the finest decor and fine furnishings would just be a museum piece if companionship and love of family were not there. There's not much love in museums. Even the mansions of heaven would be empty to us if God did not manifest Himself to ravish us with His love.
- The Son of God came into the world to bring joy, peace and the fulness of God's love to the emptiest and loneliest of souls.

This should fill our hearts with praise. We will spend eternity praising God for His amazing love to us, even while we were guilty sinners.

Sermon Outlines

God Is Love

Love is best studied looking at the substitutionary sufferings of our Lord Jesus, who gave Himself to redeem us. The Redeemer's love displayed in his dying and sufferings for us is the ultimate display of God's love to sinful men. We must stand amazed and wonder how He could love us.

PRAY TO FULFILL THE COMMAND TO LOVE ONE-ANOTHER

- This is the increase that is required amongst God's people. "So shall ye be my disciples." (John 15:12)
The Lord pleaded for our obedience to this command by saying, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13)
- The Lord laid down his life for us. That was sacrificial love. His love is unquestionable. He called his people "friends". The Lord displayed His friendship by revealing the Father's will to his followers.
- So we have no need to ask how we may display our love to the brethren. Here is the model to follow and its message is loud and clear.
- Pray for to be personally filled to overflowing with the love of God so you truly love others.

PRAY FOR GRACE TO PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE TO SINNERS.

- There is lots of room for increase here! Christ came into the world on this mission. This is our mission too. Souls are born into this world blind to the love of God. Fallen men consider God to be their enemy. So they hate Him. Sin separates men from God. Satan's caricature of God to the minds of men is a deliberate deceit lest men should believe on His Son.
- Gospel ministry is to make the love of God known to sinful men. We need to preach this good news that the eternal God set His love on sinners with full intent to save them and bring them to glory. Judgment and hell are terrible realities that must be preached to all men, and their horrors will highlight the good news of the gospel that God has a plan of mercy to deliver souls from wrath. The same God who is infinitely holy is also infinite love. He has gone out of the way to save souls.
- Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, "For God sent not his Son to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17)
- The Lord said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)
- Let us so display the love of God through our new lives and our care for lost souls - this is the way of love"
- Pray for your own increase in God's love just as John the Baptist desired to increase in the Lord's love. Have you tried the way of love?" Begin by praying for God's love to prevail through you.

Mr. Spurgeon said, "He who does not love sinners cannot pray aright for them. When we love sinners then prayer is fervent. And when we love Jesus, then will the prayer be earnest. Love is the flaming torch to kindle the pile of our devotions."

When we pray to be like God we will want to be filled with His love and then we will be what we ought to be for God.

Pray that God's love will flow through you.

... Ian Goligher