

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

THIS IS LOVE

1 John 4:7-11

We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Last Lord's Day we read in 1 John 2:3-11 that people who truly know God (sinners who have come truly to trust in Christ & repent of their sins – 1 Jn.1:5-2:2) show this to be true by a sincere endeavor to live in obedience to His commandment, and in particular the old/new commandment to love our Christian brothers and sisters.

Let's spend a few weeks exploring, from the Word, what that means – beginning with 1 John 4:7-11.

1. "Love" – a much abused word

romanticized & sexualized - reduced to feelings that come and go
In our fallen world, "I love you,"

usually means "I want you to make me happy, & I will love you as long as you do" (Matthew 6:46) & a means of manipulation.
What IS "love"? We must BEGIN with the source of love.

2. God is love.

Love is at the core of God's being – the perfection of mutual regard among the persons of the Triune God.

Caution: Do NOT say "love is god" OR reduce God to love alone.
He is also wise, powerful, holy, righteous, just, truthful, faithful.
God therefore must define love and tell us what it is.

We were created capable of love – for God & for our fellows -
as we were made in His image.
Since our fall into sin, sin has corrupted everything – including our understanding of love.

3. True love is seen in the Father & the Son.

Love does NOT begin with us (for God), but with God's love for us.
Attributes of true love seen in the Father & the Son:

God the Father sent His Son for undeserving rebels, sinners -
that we might live through Him.
The Son came to make propitiation for our sins – that is,
To bear in Himself the just wrath of God which we deserve.
True love commits itself to the highest good of the beloved,
Not as a reward, but as a gift undeserved & ready to forgive,
Not to get, but to bless,
Not for the pleasure of self, but willing to bear loss & pain for the other.

4. Christian: Love as you have been loved by the Father & the Son.

This is how God has loved us in Christ;
This is the love He calls us to have for each other (3:16-18).