

“Our Loving God”

1 John 4:7-16

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Our need for love, acceptance, and sense of adequacy
- Our quest for human love sometime succeeds, sometimes fails

Our Loving God

A. “God is love” from the very core of His being

- 1 John. 4:7-11-- *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”*
 - 1 John 4:16-- *“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us: God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”*
1. **Three different kinds of “love”**
 - a. *“Eros”*-- physical love
 - b. *“Phileo”*-- brotherly love
 - Romans 12:10-- *“kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.”*
 - c. *“Agape”*-- self-sacrificial love
 2. **Love is an act of the will-- a willful choice**
 3. **God is the ultimate GIVER.**
 4. **God’s love is a HOLY LOVE.**
 5. **God’s love is a CHOICE**, not a necessity for He had an eternal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - John 17:24-- *“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and see my glory, the glory you have given me, because you loved me before the creation of the world!”*
 - John 3:35-- *“the Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.*
 - John 5:20-- *“for the Father loves the Son and shows Him all he does.”*

B. God speaks our “Love Language”

1. Five Languages of Love (Gary Chapman, **Five Love Languages**)
 - a. Words of Affirmation
 - b. Receiving Gifts
 - c. Quality Time
 - d. Doing Service for Others
 - e. Physical Touch
2. **God speaks all five “love languages” through His Son, Jesus Christ.**

3. **Primary language was a combination of “Giving of Gifts” and “Doing Service for Others”**
 - 1 John 4:9-10-- *“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

C. Our Loving God and You? Because our God is loving, we can experience...

1. Salvation from our sins

- John 3:16-- *“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life!”*
- Romans 5:8-- *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners Christ died for us.”*

2. Sustenance throughout life

- Romans 8:32-- *“He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things.”*

3. Security regarding our future

- Romans 8:35-39-- *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

D. Because our God is loving, we can SHARE His love with others

- 1 John 4:7-11-- *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”*
- 1 John 3:16-18-- *“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”*
- Ephesians 5:1-2 -- *“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children, and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”*
- John 13:35-- *“By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*