

DATE: Saturday – Sunday, March 20-21, 2021

SERIES: *FOCUSED*

SERMON: God's Gift

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:7-21

1 John 4:7-21 NIV

[7] Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

[8] Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

[9] This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

[10] This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

[11] Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

[12] No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

[13] This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.

[14] And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

[15] If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

[16] And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

[17] This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

[18] There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

[19] We love because he first loved us.

[20] Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

[21] And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

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God sent His only Son and Taught us to Love One Another

1. God _____ love.

- Love is the very _____ of God.

2. God _____ His love.

- God sent _____ to pay our debt and remove our guilt.
- He did not ask us for a _____.
- He gave us _____ of our salvation:
 - His indwelling Spirit
 - Our confession – a decisive act
 - Abiding love

3. Therefore, _____ is our moral obligation.

- We cannot _____ God and _____ others.
- _____ is “spontaneous, self-giving, and indifferent to the merit of the object loved.”

4. Our love is _____ in tangible ways.

- We _____ others as we want to be _____.

5. God _____ – completes - our love.

- He “_____” our love – giving us confidence in the coming judgment.
- He _____ our capacity and intensity to love.

Lagniappe

Getting ready for Easter—and beyond

For the first time in two years, we will be able to have in-person worship on Easter weekend. What a wonderful occasion that will be! We are trying to do everything possible to make this a safe, exciting and meaningful time.

So, here are some of our plans.

- **Starting this weekend**, we will re-configure our upper deck to accommodate more people. At the same time, we are leaving the lower area just as it is. We hope that these steps will provide more space with continued safety.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 1st at 7PM** we will celebrate the Lord's Supper.
- **Easter Sunday we will add an 8AM worship service.** This will give us services at **6PM Saturday, 8AM, 9:30AM, and 11AM Sunday**. All services will be exactly the same and Connect Groups will NOT be meeting that weekend.

We expect the 6 PM and 8 AM services to be smaller attendances with much more room. If those times fit your schedule, we would ask that you attend then.

- **We will have Preschool Childcare and Kids Worship for K - second graders** at each of the four Easter Services. We hope that these options will help you as you bring your family to worship.

All of this together should give us plenty of room for you, your friends, and your family. Please invite them to come and join you in worshipping our great God.

