

Gospel-Driven Love

Trinity Baptist Church

8-24-25

Intro

I. Welcome

II. Intro

- a. Myself → Kara → Our Boys → Sky Ranch → 15 Years of Pastoring
(Grace)
- b. (Slide Family Picture)



III. This Morning...

a. My Struggle w/ the Topic

- i. Praying
- ii. This Summer → 1 John
- iii. God working on me

iv. When the Bible repeats itself, pay close attention...

- i. Jesus / Paul / Peter / John

- b. There is a kind of love that, when you see it, you can't explain it apart from God. It bears His fingerprints – selfless, sacrificial, and life-giving. It's the kind of love that can only be explained by the gospel. (Slide)

Body

I. Read the Passage

- a. 1 John 4:7-12 (Slide)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

- b. Audience = Likely the Church at Ephesus

- i. Younger Believers 2:1

- ii. Entire Letter written to a Christian Young in Their Faith

II. The Call to Love One Another

- a. 1 John 4:7-8 (Slide)

*⁷Beloved, **let us love one another**, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love*

- b. The Call = Love One Another
 - i. Gk. Agapao = 143 x's in 110 NT verses
- c. Theme of Love in 1 John
 - i. 46 times love is referenced
 - ii. 27 of 46 in 1 John 4:7-21
- d. The Emphasis of Agapao
 - i. Emphasis upon sacrifice
 - ii. Love is a willing self-sacrifice for the good of another, without requiring reciprocation or the worthiness of the one being loved.
(Slide Just the definition)
- e. The Evidence
 - i. New Birth → Born of God
 - ii. Knowing God → Knows God
- f. Read Through the Passage w/ “Self-Sacrifice for the Good of Another” in place of “Love”

⁷Beloved, let us Self-Sacrifice for the Good of Another, for Self-Sacrifice for the Good of Another is from God, and whoever Self-Sacrifice for the Good of Another has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not Self-Sacrifice for the Good of Another does not know God, because God is Self-Sacrifice for the Good of Another. ⁹In this the Self-Sacrifice of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is Self-Sacrifice for the Good of Another, not that we have Self-Sacrifice for the Good of God but that he Self-Sacrifice for the Good of us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so Self-Sacrifice for the Good of us, we also ought to Self-Sacrifice for the Good of one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his Self-Sacrifice for the Good of us is perfected in us.

III. How We Miss It

- a. Illustration *YMCA Basketball Story*
 - i. The Point God is inviting us into something profound and life-giving, but we can miss it when we get distracted by things that ultimately don't matter.

- a. Why We Tend to Struggle with Loving One Another...

- i. When we believe we're the ultimate authority on love who deserves it, how it's expressed, and when it's withheld (Slide)

- i. Illustration *Grandma and Segregation in Church!*

1. Set Up I've been reading a book called *Dream with Me* by John Perkins (*87 years old, key in the Civil Rights Movement*)
2. Grandma

"The Mississippi Delta was in a tizzy over rumors that blacks might show up at white churches to worship. Some white churches hired armed guards to keep them out. Other white churches considered allowing them to attend services. One Delta congregation, a Presbyterian church with deep cultural roots, was split right down the middle. Half of the deacons voted no; the other half voted yes. After a contentious meeting to resolve the stalemate, one of the church elders hurriedly left the meeting to deliver the news to his mother, a firm believer in old-time segregation.

"Well, what did you decide?" she demanded.

"We decided to let them attend services."

"You know I'm very much opposed to that!"

"I know, Mother but think about it this way. What would Jesus do?"

I know good and well what He'd do," she said. "He'd say, let 'em in!"

She paused a moment, pondering the implications, then added, "BUT HE'D BE WRONG!" ☹ ☹ ☹

¹ Perkins, J. *Dream with Me*, p.45-46

- ii. **When we are content to allow a lack of love for someone to reside in our heart unchecked and unchallenged (Slide)**
 - i. Application Question Who is the person that you are content with not loving the way that God is calling you to?
- iii. **When we try to love one another without being driven by the true reason we should love each other (Slide)**

IV. A Gospel-Driven Love

- a. 1 John 4:9-12 (Slide)

⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.
- b. Key John believes it's important to connect the Gospel to loving others
- c. 4:9 → Radical Generosity of God
- d. 4:10 → The Love of God was made manifest among us (The Gospel)
 - i. God sent His only Son
 - ii. Ref. John 3:16
- e. 4:11 → God loved us first
 - i. Propitiation = The means of appeasing!
- f. 4:12 → God's love in us (B/c of the Gospel)
- g. Paul's Emphasis...
 - i. God's great love (Eph. 2)

- ii. Nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom. 8)
 - iii. Paul's Prayer (Eph. 3)
 - iv. Increase and Abound (1 Thessalonians 3:12)
- h. The Love of the Gospel Drives Why and How We Love One Another
- i. Ephesians 2:4
'But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us.
 - ii. Romans 8:35, 37-39
³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
 - iii. Ephesians 3:14, 18-19
¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father... ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
 - iv. 1 Thessalonians 3:12
¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,
 - v. Ephesians 5:1-2 (Slide)
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Conclusion

- I. Illustration The Pool & Ocean
(Slide 2 Pictures Below)



