

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

- 175, *Lamb of God*
- 256, *Are you washed in the blood*
- 258, *There is power in the blood*
- *Behold the Lamb*

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #14

To know God is to know love - Because He loved us

1 John 4:7-14

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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love. truth. grace.

“We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”



- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #14

To know God is to know love - Because He loved us

1 John 4:7-14

- November 13th, 2022 -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #14

To know God is to know love – Because He loved us

1 John 4:7-14

When we pause to consider the man on the Roman cross in the middle, and then we turn and look at ourselves. We can't help but see and know and feel what real love is. Selfless love, the deep, deep love of God. Since we have been so very loved and are kept by the committed love of Jesus for us. How should we then live toward one another in the body of Christ, as those redeemed from the bondage of sin and eternal death by that man on the cross?

In chapter 4 John refers 3 times (v1, 7, 11) to his readers as *beloved*. Beloved by John yes, and he reminds them, even more importantly, beloved of God! If we believe in the Son we are the eternally beloved!

V7, Here John returns to his main theme found in 1 John 2:29, "*If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.*" Love, *agape* love wrought by God is the sum total of all righteousness and it is the hallmark and signal-light of the child born of God. See what Jesus commanded in John 13:34-35. **God's love is not mere sentiment, but is shot through (ultra-interpenetrated) with and is inseparable from His holiness and other moral perfections!**

Whenever the believer loves in this way two things happen: 1) He or she shows their spiritual identify – they turn on the signal-light-that the believer is born of God. 2) To the degree that we love this way and as often as we do it, we know the God of love by experience. To channel the flow of God's love is to be inevitably saturated and wetted by its delightful waters.

V8, Here is the contrary condition. The unbeliever never begins to hold inwardly, nor show outwardly, God's selfless love. And believers should be wary to guard against this unnatural condition in themselves. When we turn our gaze back to the love of God in Christ for us, God's love is no longer constrained in us and we begin to love the brethren again with the love that God desires to bless them with. Be a channel of God's love!

V9, This verse parallels John 3:16. God demonstrated his costly love to us in this way. We therefore have the basis in God's love for us, to love one another extravagantly and without stint! Living and loving through Christ (Gal 2:20) rather than through the lower fleshly nature as our source. ***This involves a regular, deliberate act of the will, a will freed from bondage to sin and self. To let Christ do the living through and in us.***



V10, **Now we have love defined.** It does not start on the plane of fallen humankind which loves because the object of love is beautiful, smells delightful, an is desirable and attractive. It starts with the emptying of self for the benefit and blessing of the unlovable and undesirable. *Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.*

/pra,piʃi'teɪʃən/ - pro-pi-ti-a-tion

propitiation

(1) (noun) the act of placating and overcoming distrust and animosity; (2) (noun) the act of atoning for sin or wrongdoing (especially appeasing a deity);

Propitiation... God was rightly and justly wrathful at our rebellion and sins. But he loved us, and God himself took on himself in Jesus, the wrath due us. Jesus the only perfect man, God in the flesh, bore the justice and wrath that was our well-earned punishment!

v11, *is an obvious follow.* If we weren't loved in this extraordinary and extravagant and gracious and undeserved way, we'd be burnt toast! It is right that to the degree God's mighty Spirit of Christ within enables and opportunity occurs, we ought in the same manner to extravagantly love one another!

V12, God is an invisible Spirit (John 4:24). When we incarnate, when we give flesh and expression to God's sacrificial love that was incarnated to us in the undeserved giving of the Son, then believers and unbelievers alike can see and experience God! **See John 14:9-10**

v13, The mutual abiding of God in us, and us in God, that is the reality of God's holy love, is known by experience in us by God's indwelling and working Holy Spirit of love. When a believer loves, he/she is drawing not from the well of the flesh, but from God's supernatural well of fellowship love that abides in perfection and awe and infinity between the persons of the Father, Son and Spirit!

V14, **When the community of believers love in this way, the indwelling God, whose presence is manifested in the midst of that loving Christian community, thus becomes truly manifest outwardly in and to the world.**

We give clear and unassailable testimony to the reality that God sent His Son into the world in true love, when we love one another as we have been loved by Him! The call to church is not merely so that we can worship, or learn something, as vital as those are. The church gathered is to be the very earthly expression of the living, loving, sacrificing Father who send us our Savior, and God, Jesus Christ!