

ADVENT SERIES

Andy Deane · 12/18/2022 · Love

Today we'll see from the Scriptures that the birth of Jesus was a massive display of the Father's love for us, that should inspire us toward loving others sacrificially.

Advent Theme #4: LOVE

1 John 4:7-16 shows us nine lessons on love:

#1 Love's REQUEST:

1 John 4:7a, *Dear friends, let us love one another,*

- We're asked to love others, but not just friends and family.
- Believers are to be like God and love the difficult and their enemies.

#2 Love's SOURCE:

1 John 4:7b, *for love comes from God.*

- To love the difficult requires an out of this world love.
- We won't find the necessary love in us, others, or the world.

#3 Love's PROOF:

1 John 4:7b-8a, *Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God,*

- Our love for others is proof that we're true Christ followers.
- Love cannot be perfected, but it must be present and growing!

#4 Love's DEFINITION:

1 John 4:8b, *because God is love.*

- Love describes the character and heart of God.
- Love colors every aspect of His nature: His holiness is loving. His righteousness is loving. His justice is loving.

#5 Love's EXAMPLE:

1 John 4:9-10, *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.*

- God's love is shown: "He sent his one and only Son into the world"
- The intended result: "that we might live through him"
- We didn't earn it: "not that we loved God"
- But we needed it: "atoning sacrifice for our sins"

#6 Love's LOGIC:

1 John 4:11, *11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

- John's rational argument is: If you realize how very much God loves us it should inspire more love for others.

#7 Love's REACH:

1 John 4:12, *12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us & his love is made complete in us.*

- If God is invisible, how will people see Him?
- God inspires us to love others so sacrificial that it causes them to see His love in us.

#8 Love's TRUTH:

1 John 4:13-15, *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.*

- With so much talk of love, John doesn't ignore the truth.
- It's not enough to have love, & not follow Jesus: need both.

#9 Love's STRENGTH:

1 John 4:16, *16 we know & rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, & God in them.*

- I can't love like this. Exactly! It's impossible without God's help.
- We have to "*rely on the love God has for us*".

Invite a friend to our CHRISTMAS EVE services on 12/24 at 1pm, 2:30pm, 4:00pm, & 5:30pm.

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